

say that the Gaekwar was relying upon Mr. Dadabhoy Nowrojee's exertions alone, the evidence does not support. I do not think then that we need look far for motive in this case. The only person to whom motive can be ascribed is His Highness. He knew that at the time this khureeta was being sent that a progress report was being sent by Colonel Phayre, in which the steps taken in the progress of reform would be explained; and it strikes me that the khureeta was much more intended to do away with this progress report than seriously to expect the removal of Colonel Phayre. This progress report appears to bear the same date as the khureeta to which I have just referred. I say therefore that if motive is to be sought otherwise than in the acts proved, we have from the evidence supplied by the defence themselves ample proof of a motive for His Highness desiring to remove Colonel Phayre. I desire here, as in future, to refer to the conduct of His Highness as connected with the considerations I have just put before this Commission. Monday the 9th November was one of the days on which His Highness usually visited Colonel Phayre. Whether His Highness knew before reaching the Residency that an attempt had been made and failed does not conclusively appear on the evidence. It is certain, however, he knew of it as he was driving back from the Residency; and when we take into consideration, too, the hurried ride of Salim towards the city immediately after the note had been despatched to Dr. Seward, it strikes me as highly probable that Salim went, not merely to Rowjee's quarters in the camp in order to secure the destruction of any trace of the powders, but that his ride to the city was not altogether without a purpose. That he went to Rowjee's quarters is shown by the evidence of Damodhur Punt; and that he went in the direction of the city and came back is shown by the evidence of the conservancy peon and the peon Mahomed Buksh, who had been entrusted with the letter to Dr. Seward. Salim knew perfectly well that Dr. Seward had had a letter sent to him by Colonel Phayre, for the Commission will remember that when Colonel Phayre felt this taste, he, unsuspecting of poison, thought it must be the pummelo juice, and got up and tried to throw the remainder away lest he should be tempted to drink the remainder of it. It was not until he had thrown most of it away that he noticed this dark sediment and the dark fluid trickling down the glass. He thereupon wrote to Dr. Seward, giving the note to Rowjee, who was waiting outside the office as usual, and would therefore have had an opportunity of seeing what Colonel Phayre was doing inside the office. Doubtless he had seen what had taken place inside. Rowjee gave the note to Mahomed, who was intercepted on the way by Salim, who gave him a rupee to get some biscuits. That Salim took this ride is beyond dispute, not only from the evidence of the conservancy peon, who saw him going off in the direction of Rowjee's house, and also galloping to the city, and again coming back. Salim took this ride somewhere about 8 o'clock, or between 8 and 9. Colonel Phayre came in at about 7 o'clock, and it would perhaps be about half-past 7 and 8 o'clock when, after throwing the sherbet away, he sent the note to Dr. Seward. This fixes the time at which Salim took this ride in the direction of the city. Where he went to in the city it is impossible to say; what he went for it is not difficult to divine. He was at the Residency very early in the morning, early enough to be informed of what was going on. He had spoken to Rowjee; he knew that the Doctor had been sent for, and then he galloped off to the city. He had ample time to communicate to the Maharaja that something was wrong, and to tell His Highness at all events that Dr. Seward had been sent for. This he could tell him before he paid his visit to the Residency, although as a matter of fact it is difficult to say positively from the evidence whether His Highness knew or did not know before he paid his visit that the attempt had been made and failed. I at all events have not been able to find any passage that places the question beyond dispute. I do not put it upon higher grounds than this, that it is highly probable that information had been conveyed to the Maharaja before he made that visit on the morning of Monday the 9th. If this is so, we can see nothing at all wonderful in the circumstances that he preserved his equanimity on that occasion. My learned

friend has said that he did not move a muscle of his face. But when His Highness was talking to Colonel Phayre he had had ample time to compose his features and determine upon the course he should adopt. I do not know that His Highness could have taken surer means of ascertaining whether or not the poison, which at all events he may have had reason to believe had been administered to Colonel Phayre, had produced any injurious effects than the conversation he entered into with Colonel Phayre. It is quite true that Colonel Phayre in his evidence before the Commission said that he thought he had asked His Highness about his health, and thereupon a certain conversation in regard to health occurred. You will find this at page 34 of the short-hand writer's notes. Colonel Phayre says: "The Maharaja came about half-past 9, I think—his usual hour. Between the time of my giving the remains of the sherbet to Dr. Seward and the Maharaja's arrival I had received no communication from Dr. Seward. I had not mentioned my suspicions of poisoning to any one but Dr. Seward. When the Maharaja came I went out to receive him as usual, and led him into the drawing-room, and he sat down. I asked after His Highness' health, and he said he had not been very well, that there was a good deal of fever about, and that he thought he must have eaten too many of the sweetmeats usual at that time (the Dewalee). He also mentioned that he had had a slight headache and pain in his stomach, but that he was better now. The interview was not a long one." Now no doubt Colonel Phayre there points out that the conversation regarding health was commenced by himself, but in the statement made by him on the 16th November, at a time when the matter was much more fresh in his memory than it was when he gave evidence here, he said (page 38 of short-hand writer's notes) that "at about twenty minutes or half-past 9 A. M. the Maharaja paid me his usual visit. After some common-place remarks His Highness observed that the weather was not healthy, that there was a good deal of fever in the city, and that he himself had been suffering from purging and headache and fever from eating the usual Dewalee sweetmeats, but that he had recovered. I made no remarks, but it occurred to me that His Highness had led the conversation to the subject in order to elicit some remarks from me." Now it seems to me that when Colonel Phayre wrote upon the 16th November, very shortly after the facts occurred, he was more likely to be accurate as to who first broached the subject than he was when he gave his evidence here, and no doubt if Colonel Phayre's attention had been called to what he had said in his statement, he would have modified what he said originally upon the subject. But however that may be, this fact certainly remains, that a conversation turned upon Colonel Phayre's health this morning which was well calculated to elicit from him some description of his state of health. And this is certain, that on his drive home the Maharaja in a conversation with Damodhur Punt, whom he had picked up at the Dhurumsala as usual (see page 113 of short-hand writer's notes), showed that he knew of the matter then. Damodhur Punt says: "As we were driving back, the Maharaja said, 'There is a noise or a report at the Residency.' I asked, 'What for?' The Maharaja thereupon replied, 'Nursoo was in the habit of coming every day. He did not come to-day, and Rowjee made haste and put it.' I said, 'What was the cause of the haste?' The Maharaja said that 'Nursoo was in the habit of sitting outside every day, and if he saw anybody coming he used to whistle; Nursoo was not outside on guard for the purpose of whistling. That is the cause of the noise.'" It is perfectly clear that if Damodhur Punt is speaking the truth, His Highness knew on his way home that the attempt on Colonel Phayre's life had been made and failed. On the same day, later on, we find the Maharaja conversing on the subject with Nana Khanvelkar and the others at the Palace. I do not think the conversation I have just read is one that Damodhur Punt would have been very likely to have invented. It certainly is not the sort of conversation that the police, intelligent as my friend has admitted them to be, would put into his mouth. I think there is strong internal evidence that it was a conversation which actually did take place, and has been faithfully repeated to the

Commission. It is a conversation he would have noticed for his own sake as well as his master's. Doubtless the other conversation, in which Nana Khanvelkar was concerned, also took place. Were it not true, Nana Khanvelkar might have been called by my friend on the other side to disprove it, and so far as the conversation is concerned at present it stands proved by the evidence of Damodhur Punt. Taking it that the Gaekwar knew the attempt had been made on that day—and we have also this important circumstance to consider that it was notorious over the camp and city on the afternoon of the 9th that an attempt had been made to poison the Resident—then it occurs to me that, supposing His Highness knew nothing of the circumstance before the 9th November, the natural thing for him to have done would have been to get into his carriage and hasten to the Residency and congratulate Colonel Phayre upon his escape. It does not seem to me possible that if the Maharaja was entirely innocent of all knowledge of this attempt he would have acted as he did. He does nothing till Thursday, the day of his usual visit, and then speaks to Colonel Phayre about it amongst other things of little importance. He does not make any official communication to Colonel Phayre upon the subject until two days after his interview, and then he says in that communication that he had heard of the attempt from Colonel Phayre, although he does not say that he had heard for the first time from Colonel Phayre that the attempt had been made; and under all the circumstances I think it must be true, as Damodhur Punt says, that His Highness was kept informed of everything that took place. In fact, it is incredible that, being bruited abroad over camp and city as the attempt was, the news should not have reached the ears of His Highness. Even supposing that Damodhur Punt, Salim, and Yeshwuntrao were implicated in the matter, they would have communicated the discovery of this attempt to His Highness, as it was no ordinary occurrence. In this conduct of His Highness in postponing all official notice of the attempt until Saturday I find matter which, I submit to the Commission, is well worthy of consideration by the Commission in connection with the circumstances to which I have already referred as strong testimony indicative of His Highness' guilt. Well then, my Lord, let us consider what was done afterwards. Damodhur Punt, whose evidence I shall not particularly refer to because no doubt the Commission will weigh it carefully for themselves, describes how it was that the Maharaja was kept informed of what was going on at the Residency; how Rowjee was arrested and afterwards released, and arrested again, and all the rest of it. Nothing transpired to cause His Highness any anxiety until some time after Mr. Souter arrived. Then his alarms commenced. We find him going through the same revulsions of feeling in regard to Salim and Yeshwuntrao as he had done in the case of Rowjee, and on the 23rd December we find him cautioning them on no account to betray him. Now, my Lord, during the whole of the time from the 9th November till the 23rd December no doubt His Highness had the fullest opportunity of making himself acquainted with the proceedings which had been taken to discover the authors of this attempt. On the 23rd December he was informed that he himself was implicated. From then until the middle of January he remained upon the *gadee* able to control his own actions. It is then we find him giving instructions to Damodhur Punt during that interval to cause all entries, all records likely to throw light on these transactions, to disappear from his archives. It is during that time we find the clumsy attempt made to erase the name of Salim from the *roz-ki-yads*, and it is at that time we find one of the karkoons tearing up a yad in regard to the purchase of diamonds. That such instructions should be given was only natural under the circumstances, and that such instructions could not be carried out fully was rendered natural by the nature of the accounts kept. My learned friend asked Damodhur Punt why he did not destroy the entries altogether; but Damodhur Punt's answer was a natural one. He said he did not do so because the particulars were kept in five places, and because he would have had to destroy the whole record—not merely the yads, but the whole system of accounts, from the yads to the annual accounts. If a yad

disappeared from the *duftur* the *roz-ki-yad* would remain, and if that was destroyed the *thalibund* would have remained, and beyond that there would have been the annual account. No doubt the pouring of ink over the entries might have obliterated them, but it was done in such a clumsy way that I do not think it could have been the work of the police. It seems to me to be much more like the work of a clerk in the office who, fearing that he was giving the entries too much prominence, stopped his work of obliteration after he had obliterated only a few of them. Even clumsy as it was, however, the plan might have been successful, for but for the statements of Damodhur Punt it would have been impossible to follow up the entries. Unless he had given the clue, these accounts would have been a sealed book to those investigating them. I therefore say we have here in the evidence before the Commission ample motive to connect the Gaekwar with these charges, and ample reason to infer from his conduct that he was a party to the attempt upon the life of Colonel Phayre. This brings me to a consideration of the events on which my learned friend had so carefully and so ably commented. My learned friend says that the witnesses who have been called before the Commission ought not to be believed, and regarding each one he has given special reasons why he should not be believed. I propose to take those witnesses one after the other, and to point out the fallacy of my friend's reasoning. Minute criticism, I am sure, of the evidence of the ordinary run of natives in this country might no doubt be carried so far as to destroy their evidence altogether. I think your Lordship will bear me out when I say that no ordinary native witness would probably be found to give his evidence in such a way as to withstand the tests applied by my learned friend, although he might in the main be perfectly truthful. They have a loose way of talking, particularly in regard to dates, and in regard to details generally, and it is one of the most difficult as it is one of the most important functions performed by tribunals in this country to separate the wheat from the chaff, and learn from a general consideration of their evidence rather than a minute consideration of it whether or not they are speaking the truth. Now, I apprehend that these witnesses who speak to transactions with the Maharaja can none of them, with the exception of Damodhur Punt, be considered educated persons. You have the ayah, a couple of puttawallas, and others, all occupying a low rank in the social scale, who deposed to these circumstances, and I apprehend it is not surprising to find that they did not agree in details, although they agreed substantially. These people are not so accurate as English witnesses. Take one specimen of their evidence. My learned friend referred to it yesterday, and I will accept it as a fair sample of the looseness with which native witnesses speak as to dates. It will be familiar to the Commission how difficult it is to find a witness who can fix a date after an occurrence. They may remember the day of the week and so fix it, or it may be at the time of some native festival and then it is fixed, or they may fix it by some event in their own lives; but when they come to speak of a transaction, they generally say it is two or four days after, or five or seven days or fifteen or twenty days. They always allow themselves some sort of margin. It is unfortunate they do so. Still, want of accuracy does not I think, in general, weigh with Judges in this country as showing witnesses to be altogether unworthy of credit. Now this third visit of the ayah before the 9th November, which was referred to by my learned friend, is an instance of what I have been arguing. She says it was about twenty days or a month before she heard about the poison being given, which would make it about the 20th October. Her husband, Shaik Abdoola, fixes it by the month, and says it was about the 10th or 18th of the month Ramzan, which began on the 12th October, which would carry us to the 28th or 30th October; and Shaik Dawood fixes it at three or four days before the Dewalee, which would carry us into November. Here we have an instance of what I have just mentioned, but I hardly think that these discrepancies would be considered sufficient to justify the rejection of the evidence of these three witnesses. You have there a slight divergence, but not necessarily an untruth; on the contrary, that very divergence appears to me

to be a test of truth in this way, that it disproves the idea of the witnesses having been tutored by the police. The police must have had more than human ingenuity if they tutored these three persons to mention dates so entirely different. Another observation I may make in regard to the general character of some of these witnesses, and particularly those witnesses who were attached to the service of the Residency. I quite agree with my learned friend that it was not probable that the Residency servants wanted to take away Colonel Phayre's life. That is the opinion I have always entertained since I first read the statements of the witnesses in this case. It is very natural that they should not be desirous of putting to death the master they served, when they no doubt considered that they could render the service required by the Maharaja in a less dangerous and equally effectual way. This accounts for what Rowjee stated to the Maharaja when the matter of poison was first mentioned. He asked if this poison would take immediate effect, and was assured that it would not, but would be effective after some months. This is also a perfect explanation of what Rowjee did when he got the powders and was told to mix them together. He having an idea very likely that the white powder was arsenic, puts only a pinch of it into a third part of the diamond dust which he put into Colonel Phayre's glass. It would very likely occur to him that if Colonel Phayre were murdered at once, there would be an immediate enquiry. There would be a great disturbance; the murder would out; and then he would come to grief. It would then strike him that if he could give him only enough of this poison to make him ill so that he would have to go home, he would have done what the Maharaja wanted, and would get his guerdon all the same, while at the same time this procedure might be a slave to his conscience. Of course on this point, I am referring not merely to his not putting the whole of the arsenic in, but also to the contents of the bottle which was given to him, and which contained the physician's stuff as my learned friend termed it. Finding that a few drops exuding from the bottle produced those unpleasant blisters on his stomach, he probably thought, "dear me, if a little of this causes so much pain, it will not be safe for me to put the whole of it into Colonel Phayre's bath," and accordingly he threw away the contents of the bottle. But not only may this consideration well be borne in mind by the Members of the Commission in determining from the evidence whether these servants would not desire at once and suddenly to take away Colonel Phayre's life, but it must be remembered in regard to their readiness, which was much commented upon at the time, to accede to the Maharaja's desire that they should act as his instruments in poisoning Colonel Phayre when the proposition was made to them in the first instance. It was not until they were completely in the Maharaja's power, until he had got them under his control and had made them furnish him with information and paid them bribes, that he spoke to them of administering poison, or that they entertained the proposition. We see it in the case of all of them. It is first of all: "Give me information, take money from me"—two proceedings to which a color might easily be given on the part of the Maharaja which would be quite sufficient to ruin the men. It would have been easy for the Maharaja just to send down to Colonel Phayre when Rowjee or Nursoo brought him a paper, saying, "Look here, here is one of your servants come to me with this paper which he has taken out of your office." It would have been easy for the Maharaja to say, "These men have been applying to me for money for the purpose of communicating information, and I have paid it to them, and I now send them to you to show that these men have in point of fact the money." Deeming the Maharaja to be an unscrupulous man, they, bearing these things in mind, must have felt they were completely in his power: and it is to be borne in mind that if they speak the truth, the method of their employment was singularly judicious. The ayah and those working with her do not appear to have known directly anything of the fact that Rowjee and Nursoo were working in their own direction on the part of the Maharaja. There is no complicity between the parties. Any one of the informants might therefore have been sacrificed without the necessity of exposing

the others. In the same way, as I have already suggested, His Highness appears to have been working through Mr. Dadabhoy Nowrojee for the public view of these transactions, so we find him working not merely through Damodhur Punt in regard to the secret conspiracy, but we find him working in regard to Rowjee and Nursoo as one class, the ayah and others in regard to another class, and Damodhur Punt, though strange to say, the head of the whole thing, is not brought into contact with any one of the servants. The strings of this conspiracy, when the machinery is worked, all operate in the same direction, yet the motive power is kept hidden in the first instance. In fact there are several hands by which the machine can be put in motion, and that I think explains many of the peculiarities of this case. I think it may be taken to account for what otherwise is a somewhat unaccountable circumstance. Colonel Phayre says on the 6th and 7th of November he suffered from the same symptoms as on the 9th. Rowjee says that on the 6th and 7th he put nothing into the sherbet. It may perfectly well be that though Rowjee had not put anything into the sherbet on these dates, some other of the Residency servants in the pay of the Maharaja had done so, and produced the effects described by Colonel Phayre. My learned friend was fain to suggest that Colonel Phayre's imagination was stimulated by his having heard or read Rowjee's statements. But that is not so. Rowjee's statement is perfectly inconsistent with Colonel Phayre having formed any idea in regard to the transactions of the 6th and 7th, for in his statement to Mr. Souter he distinctly says that after the two powders had been given to him, and he had mixed them together and put them into the sherbet two or three times, when no one was about to see him, that as a few days elapsed without anything happening, the Maharaja evidently became impatient and sent for him and the jemadar again. It is therefore clear that nothing Rowjee had said before Mr. Souter or before this Commission could have suggested to Colonel Phayre that his sherbet had been drugged on the 6th or 7th. It may be that considering the wholesale system of bribery that seems to have been adopted with the Residency servants, some other of the servants had drugged the sherbet on these two particular days. Now, my Lord, my learned friend, taking the witnesses *seriatim*, asked the Court not to believe them; and first of all, I will refer to what he said about the ayah Ameena. With regard to her, it is perfectly clear from Mr. Souter's evidence at page 175 of the short-hand writer's notes, that Mr. Souter saw the ayah before any of the police had had an interview with her. The ayah, it will be remembered, was seriously ill at the time, and her recollection of what took place when she was first examined cannot be expected to be as accurate as the recollection of Mr. Souter. In answer to the question "Do you remember examining the ayah Ameena in reference to this matter?" Mr. Souter says—"Perfectly. I first saw her on the 16th December between five and six o'clock in the afternoon. I saw her in her own room in Mr. Boevey's compound. On that first occasion she did not make a detailed statement to me, and I did not take it down on that day, because she was very ill and unfit to give a detailed statement on that occasion. She stated that she had been at the Maharaja Mulhar Rao's Palace, and also that she had received certain sums of money from him. She had high fever on at the time, and begged me to come and see her at some other time when she would give me all the details. Before I saw the ayah on this evening, to the best of my belief none of my police had seen her." Therefore it would appear to be perfectly clear from Mr. Souter's evidence that when attention was first directed to the fact of the ayah being driven by the cartman to the Havelee on some day in the month of Ramzan, and Mr. Souter proceeded to the ayah's quarters, he found her in a state of health that did not admit of her being particularly examined; and he was obliged to remain satisfied with the statement that she had been to the Maharaja's Palace and received money from His Highness. Two days after this her illness having increased, so that she had to be removed to the hospital, Mr. Souter went and took her statement marked D 2. Now, it is tolerably clear that the police supposing them to have invented what the ayah said on

the 18th, must have had almost superhuman powers. They had got to deal with a woman who was suffering from high fever, who could not be in a position to profit by their instructions, and they would have, moreover, to make her understand the details of a tale about which they themselves knew nothing, because at that time the only information the police had was that which was supplied by Dawood the cartman. Then the ayah's evidence gave a clue to much that was subsequently discovered. She was able to point to the persons who had accompanied her to or into the Palace on the occasion to which she referred, and these witnesses being examined, were found to corroborate her on every point. It has not been contended that these witnesses were not substantially speaking the truth, and they do confirm the ayah in regard to these portions of her statement. But, says my learned friend, the ayah's reference to poison was an after-thought, and he would have the Commission suppose that that after-thought was suggested by the police. Now, to consider the value of that suggestion, we have to consider the state the ayah was in. She was still very ill in hospital in a separate room; at the door of which a policeman was stationed. This policeman was not one of the heads of police but an ordinary sepoy, who must have been a person incapable of instructing the ayah on a point of this magnitude. Dr. Seward goes to see the ayah, and my learned friend makes a point regarding that visit which I was surprised to hear him make. It seems to me perfectly natural that Dr. Seward should go to see the ayah, not merely because she had been under his care before, but because she was the ayah of a friend of his, and it was natural also, considering the evidence she had given, that he should desire to see her well treated. I cannot see anything unnatural or improper in his paying that visit, and he knew that his friend Dr. Lewis would not object. When he gets there he sees the ayah, and does no more than any other physician of experience would do. He notices her condition; he does not think her physical condition is sufficient to account for her state; and it occurs to him as it would occur to any medical man, that she had something on her mind. Then, again, I find nothing at all improbable or unnatural in the woman, on being spoken to, desiring to complete her statement to Mr. Souter. That there was no connivance between Mr. Souter and Dr. Seward is clear from this, that when Mr. Souter went he knew so little of what she was going to say that he did not expect any further deposition, and took no writing materials with him. When he comes, the woman makes the statement, which was recorded by Mr. Souter on the following day, the 18th, in which she speaks of the Maharaja speaking in a guarded way about the poison. Now, my learned friend asked the Commission to compare what Mr. Souter took down from her statement on this occasion with what she had said before the Commission. I ask the Commission to do the same, and I think they will come to the conclusion that the two statements substantially agree. The words in the statement must be taken to be rather the words of Mr. Souter than those of the ayah. Mr. Souter does not profess to have literally translated them, but has simply given in his own language what he understood her to say. My learned friend says that he did not think it at all likely an ayah would use such expressions as some of those contained in the statement. No doubt "threw out a feeler" is not an exact translation of the vernacular expression used by the ayah, but it is an expression that is perfectly comprehensible and conveys the idea it is intended to convey. When the ayah is examined before the Commission she said substantially the same thing. She speaks about *choochas* or *muntras*, and you find the Maharaja speaking to her, as I have suggested he would be likely to speak, upon such a matter. Now, asking a native, at all events in the class of life to which this woman belongs, about *muntras*, charms, and so on, would be perfectly well understood, I apprehend, by every one of the Commission to be something very like "throwing out a feeler" regarding more than charming. Before this Commission she was of course examined at much greater length and much more particularly than she was examined before Mr. Souter; but she told the same story, and her state-

ment was amply corroborated. Another point with regard to her evidence my learned friend dwelt upon was her statement that she had been threatened by the police. Now, I have no doubt, though it is some time ago that the circumstances under which that expression was used by her, they will be clearly in the recollection of the Members of the Commission. The evidence is at page 9 of the notes. My learned friend asked her—"Did either Abdool Ali or Akbar Ali say to you that the Maharaja must have said something about it?" and she answered "Yes, they threatened me and said, if anything of the kind was said, do you state it, and then I said I have stated all that I know." Now, what she said with regard to the answer translated threatened was *dham kurra*, but she went on at once to say what sort of threat it was that had been used, and I think that the true rendering of the expression should have been "they threatened me *by saying*." Whenever her attention was called to the "threatening" by the question whether Mr. Souter threatened her, she said at once "No one threatened me," and then afterwards, when asked what made her say she was threatened, she says, "I did not say so." The short-hand writer's notes were read to her, and she said, "I don't think I said so; I did not mean it." In fact, she used the expression not in the sense we would use it, but in a very much milder sense. I think, therefore, that in the circumstances of the taking of the ayah's evidence there is everything to support its substantial accuracy and nothing whatever to detract from its value in the minds of the Commission. As to the threats, they appear to have been of the mildest character. The question is put to her as to whether the Maharaja had spoken on a certain topic; but as to ill-usage or harsh treatment, nothing of the kind is mentioned by her, nor does she complain of it. Now the next witness, and one who is of course a much more important one than the ayah, to whose evidence I propose to direct my observations is Rowjee, whom the ayah mentioned in the course of her statements, so that the police had their attention directed towards him, and found out that though a peon employed at the Residency on small wages, he had been spending large sums of money in the bazaar. The police made enquiries and found there was foundation, at all events, for the story that he had been spending money in this way; and accordingly, on the 22nd of December, he was arrested. His account will be found at page 80 of the short-hand writer's notes, in which he speaks of making a statement before Mr. Souter, and the circumstances under which he made it. The correctness of that statement was confirmed by Mr. Souter. Your Lordship will remember what Sir Lewis Pelly said about Rowjee's statement. He was examined as to that, and he tells us how he and Mr. Souter, considering that there was no prospect of really discovering any clue as to who made the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre, were going to Bombay on the 23rd and were arranging to spend their Christmas holidays there. That is very good proof that so far as Ameena's statement was concerned very much importance was not attached to it in itself. But at this time Rowjee makes his statement; the proposed journey to Bombay is put off; and Sir Lewis Pelly says he would like to see the man and judge for himself. He sees the man on that day, and hears his statement, and he says the statement was substantially the same as had been given before the Commission. We have here Rowjee's statement—a statement perfectly voluntarily made and under the most natural circumstances in the world. Mr. Souter is obliged to have him arrested, as it is known he spent money in the bazaar. He says nothing to Mr. Souter upon the morning of his arrest, but he is kept under surveillance. He is in the Residency compound along with the other servants, and they say to him "We have told all about it. You had better save yourself"—a perfectly good reason to operate on the mind of a man like Rowjee. He therefore sends for a police havildar and asks to be taken to the Khan Sahib, who immediately takes him to Mr. Souter; and ultimately he makes a statement before Sir Lewis Pelly and Mr. Souter, who accordingly remain in Baroda to pursue further investigations. The statement is reduced to writing, not on the day it was apparently made but on the following day when Mr. Souter found opportunity. I may here mention that Rowjee's

statement, made to Sir Lewis Pelly and Mr. Souter, gravely implicated Nursoo his superior officer, and the jemadar was arrested the next morning as soon as he came to the Residency. That was the 23rd. I shall by and by speak of the opportunities of communication which Rowjee and Nursoo had with each other. Nursoo being apprehended on the 23rd, makes his statement, and makes it at a time when it was perfectly impossible that he could have been coached up as to what Rowjee had said, because Rowjee's statement had not then been taken in writing. Not only then was there no intercommunication between Nursoo and Rowjee, except that short interview at which Rowjee said "*Dikko baba*, I have said everything *yantuk*—everything up to my neck," but there was no one in a position to state the details of Rowjee's confession to Nursoo, inasmuch as Rowjee's confession had not then been reduced to writing. Mr. Souter, Sir Lewis Pelly, and the native policeman who had heard Rowjee's statement, on the previous day, might have had some general idea as to what the statement amounted to, but could scarcely have carried all the details in their minds. Nevertheless, as the Commission will perceive—and I shall ask the Commission to compare the statements of the two witnesses—it was perfectly impossible that the police, from the information they themselves had, could have communicated to the one what the other had said in the detail in which they must have communicated it in order to render it practicable for the one to repeat substantially what the other had stated. Nursoo does not look like a clever man, and supposing the police to have had the villainy to repeat and the cleverness to remember, point by point, the details of what Rowjee said—is it to be supposed for a moment that a man with Nursoo's dullness of intellect could so aptly learn what it is said the others had taught him? The only explanation is, I think, that both men are speaking substantially the truth. Now, there were three main points in which my learned friend impeached Rowjee's story, and the first of these points to which I would refer—for it appears to me to be one of the most important—is his story with regard to Pedro. Rowjee boldly charges Pedro with having accompanied him to the Havelee to see the Maharaja. Pedro as stoutly denies that he did so. My learned friend says Pedro is introduced as a truthful witness, and must be believed. Well, I do not know that my learned friend is entitled to say he was introduced as a truthful witness. He is introduced pretty much on the same footing as all the witnesses were introduced by me—not as being specially truthful or trustworthy. I do not think I used a single such expression in regard to him. I simply said he would prove the receipt of money from His Highness. These witnesses were not introduced by me as being special witnesses of truth, but rather as persons who had made certain statements; into which the Government of India had considered it desirable an enquiry should be held. I could not vouch for their truth, and it is this Commission that must decide as to their credibility. However, Pedro has, no doubt, the advantage of coming before the Commission as an old servant of Colonel Phayre's, and so far must be taken to be a respectable man. He denies point blank that there was any truth in Rowjee's story about him. He denied that he had ever been to the Maharaja, but it is to be observed that his denial begins as soon as admission would be dangerous to himself. I do not think there is anything to be made from the fact of his being examined before Mr. Edginton in Bombay. Mr. Edginton, no doubt, fully deserves the commendation bestowed upon him. He is Mr. Souter's representative, his deputy, and he is now acting for him in Bombay, and he is, as we all know, a very capable and excellent officer. But I don't think that there is any reason to suggest that Pedro gives his evidence before Mr. Edginton under any greater advantage than he would have enjoyed if he had given his evidence before Mr. Souter. He was taken before Mr. Edginton by the direction of Mr. Souter, and by Mr. Souter's officers. He was taken before Mr. Edginton I may mention by the Khan Saheb. His denial of knowledge of these transactions, however, as I have stated, begins as soon as his admission would be fatal to him; as soon as his admission would have involved him in connection with the offence he ceases

to admit. There is therefore this to be said, that by a denial of this kind he not only saves his character with his master, which may be dear to him, but also saves himself, for the moment, from being charged with being an accomplice in these transactions. But I must say that it occurs to me as a curious thing that, long before the attempt to murder Colonel Phayre was discovered, Pedro should have been in everybody's mouth as being in high favour with the Maharaja, and as the person who at the instigation of the Maharaja had undertaken to administer poison to Colonel Phayre. His evidence is not conclusive, but it is something when you find a man's name associated not exactly with bazaar gup but talked about by the Residency servants as being in the pay of the Maharaja; and when you see this very witness mentioned by the Residency servants in their conversations one with another and with persons of their own condition and creed, who were in the habit of frequenting the Residency, as being in the pay of the Maharaja and being in such favour because he consented to poison Colonel Phayre—when you find that Pedro is associated with Rowjee—the very man who admitted that he himself had attempted to poison Colonel Phayre on the morning of the 9th of November—I think these are circumstances that merit consideration on the part of the Commission. Pedro himself shows that Rowjee was cognizant of his dealings with the Maharaja, for he says in cross-examination by my learned friend that he told Rowjee of the present which he had received from the Maharaja. Why should he have done that unless there was some link between them? At page 30 of the short-hand writer's notes we find this:—"Did you yourself ask Rowjee to go with you to the Maharaja?" Answer—"I did not say anything to Rowjee except as to the payment of rupees sixty?" Why should he have told Rowjee about the receipt of those sixty rupees unless there was some link binding them both together in the service of the Maharaja? It seems to me to be a very reasonable inference from that answer that Pedro knew a good deal more than, being in fear for his life, he was ready to admit. Moreover, I do not think the Commission can fail to observe that Pedro did not give his evidence without considerable reluctance. His evidence begins at page 29. He admits that Salim used to ask him to go to the Maharaja's, and that it would be well for him if he did. He says "I declined to go," and being asked as to the receipt of the rupees sixty, he says "I asked Salim to give it."

The President—Excuse me, Mr. Advocate-General. Except the ayah's statement before Mr. Souter and the examination here, is there anything on the subject of the conversations?

The Advocate-General—Nothing. It only occurs in the ayah's statement, and in her evidence given before the Commission. It was brought out in the cross-examination by my learned friend. Of course I could not ask him anything about this conversation. Your Lordship will find that they are referred to in page 7.

Mr. Branson—She first said it was Pedro and Rowjee who had told her, and then she turned round and said it was Kurrim and the other man. Then Kurrim was called and was not asked a question on the subject.

The Advocate-General—As to what my learned friend has referred to, the mistake in the ayah's remark was so palpable that I am astonished he has referred to it. But the evidence is clear here that what she was told by these people was that Pedro and Rowjee were the men who were in high favour with the Maharaja, and that when she heard that of Pedro and Rowjee, and connected it with the proposal to apply a charm to Colonel Phayre, she became alarmed and entertained suspicions that really serious attempts were being meant to take Colonel Phayre's life. As to whether Kurrim knew anything about it, of course it would have been impossible for me to put the question in examination-in-chief, and the point was not followed up in cross-examination by my learned friend, and I had therefore no opportunity of putting it in the re-examination. The principal thing is the ayah's

statement to Mr. Souter, and the examination points to this very connection of Pedro with Rowjee. We find from Rowjee that Pedro had propositions made to him by Salim which he was to carry out, and you have also to note the manner in which he gave his evidence. Instead of stating, as one would expect a man to do who had done nothing more than receive a casual present, we find Pedro saying, "I said to Salim I was going to Goa, and he brought me sixty rupees. I have deposed to the particulars in my deposition," obviously wanting to just limit himself to that deposition, and say nothing more. Now, my Lord, I submit that as far as his statement goes, I don't wish to say anything about Pedro more than is necessary. He is not here on his trial, but I submit that upon these circumstances the Commission may well doubt, and very gravely doubt, whether Pedro was telling the whole truth before them; and of that there is not much improbability, but that, as Rowjee remarks, Pedro was a person acting with him in the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre. If Pedro was to do nothing—not to be concerned in any way and to be of no use for the Maharaja—it is difficult to understand why he should have got a present of money from the Maharaja. Certainly, something would be expected of him in return for what he had received, and though the evidence is not direct in the case, there is, I think, quite enough on record before this Commission to induce this Commission to say that they are not satisfied with Pedro's evidence, and that the account he gives of himself is not sufficient. Rowjee could have had no motive to accuse Pedro; it is not suggested that they had had any quarrel; but Rowjee, having to tell his story, mentioned the name of Pedro as a circumstance just as connecting him and Nursoo and others with the same transactions.

I have discussed, my Lord, the effect which the episode in regard to Pedro may be taken to have had upon the evidence of Rowjee.

The President—Before you proceed further, there seems to be some considerable doubt from the notes whether Nursoo's statement was made on the 23rd December. Sir Lewis Pelly says that it was made on the 24th, but I have taken it down from you that Nursoo made his statement on the 23rd.

Mr. Advocate-General—It was, in point of fact, made on the 24th.

The President—Mr. Souter seems to have left it a little uncertain.

Mr. Advocate-General—It will be found at page 176, that Mr. Souter says "Nursoo was apprehended on the 23rd. I think he was apprehended on the 23rd—it may be on the 24th." The 24th would be Thursday, and that was the day on which the Maharaja paid his usual visit to the Residency. Probably Mr. Souter may be wrong in saying it was the 23rd, and Sir Lewis Pelly would be right. But Mr. Souter, as your Lordship sees, does not speak positively as to the date. He says "*I think* Nursoo was apprehended on the 23rd," and that before taking his statement he mentioned it to Sir Lewis Pelly.

The President—Sir Lewis Pelly fixes it as the 24th.

Mr. Advocate-General—Taking it to be the 24th, that will not in the slightest degree interfere with the argument I was presenting to the Commission before the adjournment, because it was not until the 24th that Rowjee's statement was reduced into writing. Whether it would be the 23rd or the 24th, there would still be the same observation, that no one would be so familiar with the details of Rowjee's statement as to be able to communicate it to Nursoo. Now, my Lord, the next episode in the evidence of Rowjee, upon which my learned friend dwelt, was the episode of the bottle, and there I venture to think that my learned friend fell into an entire error. The evidence of Damodhur Punt in regard to this bottle was that after having received from Goojaba, Nana Khanvelker's man, a large bottle containing the physician's stuff, he poured a portion of the contents of that larger bottle into a smaller bottle of his own, and the bottle into which he so poured it was not, as my learned friend assumed, an otto-de-rose bottle, but a bottle in which uttar was kept—that is the expression that Damodhur Punt used, that is, at page 113—"This bottle

was this length (showing about a finger and a half). This bottle contained some medicine. The Maharaja had asked me to pour the medicine into another bottle—which I did. The bottle I poured the medicine into was a bottle which belonged to me and used to contain otto of roses." Now my learned friend from that jumped to the conclusion that this was one of those bottles which we all of us have seen, and which come from Turkey or Persia, which are generally ornamented with gold leaf, and which have a very slight perforation running down the centre of a solid mass of glass, into which one or two drops of the precious uttar is poured—a bottle which could not be used for the purpose for which this bottle was professedly used by the witness. Of course, it could not have been such an ornamented bottle, decorated with gold leaf and containing only a very narrow line into which one could put in but two drops; but it was a bottle simply which had contained, and which the man had used for keeping uttar in. In calling it an otto-de-rose bottle the Interpreter used rather a loose translation. The passage of which I was thinking just now is at page 129. He says: "It was a small bottle of this length (shows finger), and that I poured it into a bottle which had contained otto of roses. The word uttar was translated otto-de-rose. We know perfectly well that the uttar used in this country is not the pure otto-de-rose, not the delicate decoction, or whatever it may be, that is contained in the small bottles which my learned friend obviously had in his mind's eye at the time. In the statement he made to Mr. Richey he merely mentions uttar, which is an essential extract from the rose, and a preparation not at all as agreeable to the smell. It is perfectly certain that my learned friend's theory about this being an otto-de-rose bottle, such as is to be found in the bazaars of Constantinople or Teheran, will not hold water, because the uttar bottle that was used by Rowjee is described not only by himself, but also by Damodhur Punt in a manner which is perfectly inconsistent with my learned friend's theory. In the first place, an otto-de-rose bottle proper is a bottle which will contain only one or two drops of any liquid whatsoever, whilst this bottle was used by Rowjee to shake up one of the powders which he had prepared from the packets given to him, in water, previous to pouring it in Colonel Phayre's sherbet, an operation which could not by any possibility have been performed in an otto-de-rose bottle such as my learned friend was thinking of. I think it is at the foot of page 87 that Rowjee gives a description of the bottle. "How large was the bottle?"—he was asked—and he answers—"About the length of my finger, and about a quarter of an inch in width; it was a round bottle." Then Damodhur Punt described the bottles—the two bottles that were received by him, or at least that were in his possession—the one that he received from Goojaba, and the other which was his own—and he says that the one he received from Goojaba was about as long as that (pointing to about an inch below the forefinger), and that the other bottle, which had contained the uttar, and which used to contain a portion of the physician's stuff, was about the length of his finger.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine—Pardon me, he said about the length of half his finger.

The Advocate-General—I think my learned friend will find that he said that the larger bottle was longer than his finger and going down to the middle of his hand, and that the smaller bottle was a little less than his finger. But whatever the size of the bottle may be—whether as long only as two or three joints of his finger—it certainly was a bottle larger than what would contain but two or three drops; otherwise the operation referred to could not have been performed with it. I will read the other report:—"It was about this length (showing from the top of his finger to the bottom of his hand). The Maharaja asked me to pour the contents of his vial into another bottle—a bottle which had contained otto-de-rose. It is a small bottle of this size (pointing to about two joints of his forefinger). I kept the bottle in my place." I am perfectly willing to take it that it was only the length of the two first joints of his forefinger; but it is perfectly certain that this small vial which the man spoke of, could not have been such a

bottle as my learned friend had in his contemplation when he was speaking about it; it was not a bottle which contained merely a small perforation in the glass into which but a drop or two could be poured, but one into which it was possible to pour not an inconsiderable portion of the medicine which the physician had prepared, and which was in the larger bottle sent to him by the hands of Goojaba. But as to what was the length of the bottle, is not a very material point. There is no doubt whatever that it was a small bottle, and there is also no doubt that it was not a bottle of the description that my learned friend suggested. It was not an otto-de-rose bottle proper such as my learned friend purchased during his passage through Egypt.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine—I can assure you that I did not buy an otto-de-rose bottle during my passage through Egypt (laughter).

Mr. Advocate-General—Which had contained otto-de-rose, and which he had by him. It was a bottle large enough for the purpose stated by the witness; it was a round bottle, and not constructed in the way my learned friend suggested, and it was capable of containing some considerable quantity of the medicine contained in the larger bottle, handed to him by Goojaba. No purpose could have been served by pouring two drops of the physician's stuff into the bottle, nor after the exudation from that bottle would there have been anything to throw away. I take it that it was an ordinary vial—an ordinary glass bottle—a round bottle which used to contain not two fresh drops of the precious liquid, but which could be used, if evidence is true, for the purpose, as Rowjee says it was used, namely, of making the powder become dissolved in water. From a bottle of that kind, not sealed with sealing-wax, not fastened with any cork, but simply confined by a wisp of cotton, covered with a little bees-wax, there cannot be any difficulty in assuming that something would exude from it when placed where the witness says he placed it. He tied it to the string of his drawers. We saw when he was in court, the sort of way in which that garment was worn by him, and the string would be in immediate contact with his skin; and that some scar or wound existed upon the portion of his stomach which comes in immediate contact with the string of his drawers in front, was proved by Dr. Gray. Rowjee says that having tied the bottle, fastened it, in the way I have described, to the string of his pyjamas, he takes his way homewards. Now the natural effect of his walking would make this bottle sway about with his body—and, being imperfectly fastened, as it was, with bees' wax and cotton, nothing would be more likely than that some of its contents should exude on to his skin. Dr. Gray has told us, and, although my learned friend appeared to entertain some doubt,—the proposition may have been novel to him—there can be no doubt whatever that arsenic is a caustic; all the works of authority upon that subject agree in the statement, that arsenic does produce such an effect as was spoken to by Dr. Gray and the witness Rowjee, and that arsenic in suspension, as Dr. Gray has stated, would, if it escaped from a bottle of this kind and found a lodgment on the skin, be calculated to produce the blister which Rowjee spoke of. A good deal was said about this being a boil that was produced and not a blister, and that was owing to an infirmity of expression on the part of the Interpreter, of which amongst others we have had occasionally to complain. His better judgment induced him to call it a blister. There is no doubt whatever from the explanation that the witness himself gave that what he meant was a "blister," but the Interpreter followed rather the language used by my learned friend in the course of the cross-examination in putting his questions when he spoke of this as a boil. The witness spoke of it as a "blister," and if the word "blister" had been used throughout by the Interpreter, as it was used in the first instance, I think my learned friend's argument on that point would have been a good deal disposed of. Rowjee is examined in regard to this point. It will be found at page 78 he says,—“I took the bottle with me. I tucked the bottle up in my drawers, and it produced a wound or sort of swelling. Mr. Melvill—He said he put it between his strings. The Interpreter—His meaning is that he put it between the strings of his drawers and the drawers. Examination continued—

The injury was like a boil. Interpreter—I think he means a blister. Witness (asked for explanation)—It was a boil. When a man gets a burn it produces that kind of thing. The wound was here. (Showing his stomach).” Now, my Lord, if there is one thing perfectly in the knowledge of every one in this Court more than another, it is that if a man gets a burn it does not produce a boil, but a blister; and if the Interpreter had used the word *poodi*, and stuck to it throughout, it would have saved some trouble, for “boil” apparently there was none. The word “boil” was adopted by the Interpreter somewhat unfortunately, but the description given by the witness, who sustained it, was that it produced an infirmity not called by the name of “boil,” but rather an injury that is really commonly known by the name of “blister.”

Sir Richard Meade—“Blister” was what he said.

The Advocate General—And as to the fact that a blister may be produced by a kind of caustic Dr. Gray gave a clear opinion; he examined the man, he found the marks, and he gave his opinion on the subject to the Commission. There can be no doubt whatever, therefore, that so far as this question of the boil is concerned, Rowjee’s statement is thoroughly corroborated. Now, my Lord, at the time that Dr. Gray examined the person of Rowjee, and found upon him these signs, Damodhur Punt had not been examined, and he gave a description of the contents of the bottle, of the stuff which the physician had made, and which my learned friend read from the statement made by Damodhur Punt, before Mr. Richey, on the 29th January 1875; and if that statement be true it proves this—that not only was there arsenic in the composition which the physician had made, and which was contained in the bottle brought by Goojaba.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine—There was no arsenic in the bottle.

Mr. Advocate-General—I beg my learned friend’s pardon, there was. I will read the statement made by Damodhur Punt:—“At the same time, namely, when the Resident had the open wound, the big physician’s younger brother brought a bottle of poison made up by the physician, but as there were many of us present, he did not give it that time, and he may also have wanted something for it. In the evening one day, when Colonel Phayre had the boil on his forehead, the Maharaja told me to get some blister flies.” Those are the same insects which were described by the Interpreter here as large ants. Whether it is a blister fly or large ant I cannot say; but the same word, *Muckaria*, has been used by the witness both before Mr. Richey and before the Commission:—“To send to the younger brother of the big physician. He told me to send through the Fouzdaree and have the Wagrees sent to catch some flies and taken to the physician. I told Narrayen Rao Wakusker, who is in the Fouzdaree, accordingly. The next morning the Maharaja told Hariba, in my presence, that the physician’s younger brother wanted some snakes to make medicine. The snake-man came to me two or three days after saying he had the snakes that had been ordered, and I told him to take them to Hariba and take his order before going with them to the physician. Narrayen Rao brought the blister flies then taken by the Wagrees and showed them to me, and the next day Goojaba, a servant of Nana Khanvelkur, came and showed me some blister flies of the same kind, and I told him to take them to the physician’s brother and submit them for his approval. About the same time the Maharaja told me that the physician’s younger brother wanted the urine of a black horse, and I gave orders to Bapoojee, the Kamdar of the Khas Paga, to take some urine accordingly to the physician’s brother. At the same time some arsenic was given from the Fouzdaree, but not through me. I don’t know how much was given. Had I known of its being given I would not have got some more from the Borah. Some days after the supply of these articles the physician’s brother brought the bottle, as above stated, not getting what he wanted for it. The Maharaja wanted the stuff, but did not want to give what the man demanded, so suggested to Nana Khanvelkur to get some of the contents of the bottle, and a day or two after, about 9 o’clock at night, Goojaba came to me with the bottle which the physician had made, and told me that he had taken it to the Maharaja, and

that he had been ordered to bring it to me, and that I was to take some out of the bottle, and keep it till the next day, and then give it to Salim." That is the portion of Damodhur Punt's evidence taken before Mr. Richey, to which my learned friend referred as showing what the ingredients of the physician's stuff were. And according to Damodhur Punt—and here he most distinctly says so—that in addition to the blister flies, and the snakes, and the rest of the things of which this stuff was prepared, arsenic brought from the Fouzdaree is included. I think, therefore, that upon that statement—a statement referred to by my learned friend—I have a right to say that the evidence is that arsenic was one of the component parts of this horrible stuff which the physician is alleged to have made. And taking it, as Dr. Gray has told us, that arsenic itself is a caustic, and that arsenic in suspension in water would, if the water in which it was suspended found a lodgment upon the skin, cause a blister to follow—especially when we find that arsenic is connected, as it is in this instance, with other articles of an irritant character—blister flies, large ants or whatever they may be—and the venom of snakes—to say nothing of the other articles, with the qualities of which I have not the slightest acquaintance—that would certainly appear to be sufficient to produce the effects which Rowjee says were caused by the exudation of the contents of the bottle on the skin of his stomach. What these *makharyas* are I cannot profess to say. The translation is two-fold—Mr. Nowrojee Furdoonjee translated them as large ants: they were translated before Mr. Richey as blister flies. I suppose it can be taken that they are articles which bear some resemblance to that article popularly named Spanish fly, or cantharidis, and that they would be likely to produce the ascertained effect on the stomach of Rowjee which he has described. I have already referred to the fact of Rowjee, probably as my learned friend suggested, not desiring to give anything to Colonel Phayre that should produce an immediate effect, and this is a strong confirmation of that theory of my learned friend which I entirely adopt. He found that the slight exudation from this bottle produced the effect upon his stomach which he has described, causing a considerably large blister, and he said to himself, "Dear me, if I put the whole of this, as am directed, in Colonel Phayre's bathing water, the effect upon him may be expected to be corresponding to the additional quantity to which he may be subjected, and there will at once be an enquiry, and I may get into trouble." And consequently, instead of pouring the contents of the bottle into the bathing water, he threw them away. No doubt he told Nursoo, as he says, that he poured it into the bathing water. It is not surprising that he should have done that, as Nursoo would have reported him to the Maharaja on the next visit, for not paying attention to the orders he had received. There cannot be the slightest doubt, I think, upon the evidence, that Rowjee and Nursoo took advantage of the accidental application of the collodion plaster to Colonel Phayre's boil to make up the story they did, that the arsenic had been put in it, which, having been applied, burnt Colonel Phayre and caused him to take it off. They seem to have taken advantage of what Colonel Phayre told us was the effect of this application of collodion, causing him to remove the plaster, which he did with considerable difficulty, and causing the boil to present an appearance of considerable irritation. No doubt that would be a circumstance that would be noticed, and which would be reported, and it would be seized upon by these men in order to satisfy the Maharaja that they had been obeying his orders, and done, in point of fact, something to Colonel Phayre which by reason of the strength of the medicine applied, at once attracted his attention and caused him to remove the plaster. I think, taking what Colonel Phayre said about removing the collodion which he had applied to his head, in connection with the instructions given to Rowjee to administer to him through the medium of his bathing water, or otherwise, this physician's stuff, the stories made up will read well together and the one will very well explain the other. Damodhur Punt, as the Commission will remember, mentions Rowjee's having told the Maharaja about this, and, in the statement made to Mr. Richey, Damodhur Punt says that at the time Colonel Phayre had this sore, as he calls it, on his fore-

head, I heard "Salim talking to the Maharaja in the picture room, and say that Colonel Phayre had felt it burning, and torn it off, and that that was because Rowjee had doctored the plaster." Now, it is very difficult indeed to conceive how Damodhur Punt could have invented this story as to Colonel Phayre's having felt the plaster burn, unless he had had the information from the persons from whom he professed to have had it. He could not have heard anything about Dr. Seward's having prescribed collodion, or that Colonel Phayre had rashly used it himself, instead of waiting for Dr. Seward to come and dress the boil; and unless it is true that this representation was made by Rowjee to Salim as to what he had done in regard to the boil and in Damodhur Punt's presence, it is very difficult indeed to understand how Damodhur Punt could have got hold of this story. The passage to which I have referred will be found at page 171 of the short-hand writer's report. As regards the bottle and the boil, therefore, I think that Rowjee's evidence, instead of being in the slightest degree invalidated by the argument of my learned friend, comes out of the ordeal perfectly satisfactory. The date of the giving of the bottle appears to be fixed by the time at which the boil existed. The purpose for which the bottle was given is illustrated by what Damodhur Punt says of the report made by Rowjee through Salim to the Maharaja as to what he had done with regard to the boil, and unless it is to be supposed that the police were in the confidence of Dr. Seward and of Colonel Phayre with regard to the treatment of the boil, it is difficult to understand how they could have suggested to Damodhur Punt the story which he told not only before Mr. Richey in the passage to which I have referred, but also before the Commission, as will be found at pages 128 and 129 of the short-hand writer's notes. Then, my Lord, another episode in regard to Rowjee upon which my learned friend dwelt strongly, was the episode of the belt. Now, no doubt, that was a subject in regard to which there was an opening for my learned friend, and an opening of which he availed himself; but it was an opening of which he could take full advantage only by introducing into the conspiracy, as an active agent, Mr. Souter. I have already referred to that part of my learned friend's argument, and shown what reasons there are, *a priori*, for believing it to be perfectly impossible that Mr. Souter should have taken that part in the transaction which my learned friend suggests. And when we look at the history of the transactions as recorded in the evidence, it appears to me so utterly unnecessary for my learned friend to have framed that theory, that I cannot forbear expressing my surprise that he should have done so. What is the transaction? Akbar Ali, an experienced officer, knowing that Rowjee had kept the powders which he had put from time to time in Colonel Phayre's sherbet in his belt—having heard that from Rowjee—wishes to examine it. He says to Rowjee—"What has become of your belt?" He naturally would wish to look at the belt, either for the purpose of seeing in what part of it the powders had been kept, and for the purpose of seeing also whether from the packets of powder anything had escaped of which a trace could be found in the belt. To suppose that on receiving this information from Rowjee as to the receptacle in which the powders were placed, he all at once formed the idea of introducing a packet of arsenic into the belt, is to suppose him guilty of an act of the most shameless infamy—a supposition for which the previous character of Akbar Ali affords no justification, and a supposition also, which, from the circumstances under which the examination of the belt occurred, is entirely inadmissible. What was there to make Akbar Ali believe that Mr. Souter would go away into the dressing-room to dress for breakfast at the time the belt was brought back? The Commission will remember how it all happened. Rowjee said "I used to keep it in my belt." Akbar Ali says, "What has become of your belt?" Rowjee replies that it has been given to Bhooder. Akbar Ali does not accompany any one to get the belt, but sends a by-standing policeman to go and call Bhooder Nursey. He fetches him, and Bhooder comes with the belt on him. It cannot be supposed that the police messenger who is sent to call Bhooder could have put this packet into the belt, for it is

suggested to be the work of Akbar Ali. The order is given to get the belt while Mr. Souter is in the room, and he probably supposes naturally, that nothing much would come of it, that the powders had been made away with, and that there was very little chance of finding any stray arsenic powder in the belt, and as it was between eight and nine o'clock, he goes into the adjoining room to dress for breakfast. Mr. Souter told my learned friend, just before he began his address, that there was no reason for his not remaining in the room, but that it was near breakfast time, and he went to dress. His dressing-room was immediately adjoining the present dining-room of the Residency, where he and his officers were then carrying on their enquiries, a chick only separating one room from the other. He went to dress; and while he was dressing there, and about ten or fifteen minutes after the belt had been sent for, the belt was brought and the examination began. Akbar Ali examined the belt. He finds what has been called the slide in it through which a sword or a truncheon, as the case might be, could be passed, but finds no packet immediately apparent in this belt, and he asks Rowjee where the packet was in which these powders used to be kept; Rowjee immediately points to the secret pocket which was shown to the Commission the other day. Akbar Ali introduces his fingers, until he comes in contact with a substance; that substance proves to be paper. Naturally the idea strikes him that possibly one of these packets still remains in the belt, but of this he at that time knows nothing; so he breaks open the threads at the bottom, when the packet of paper is disclosed. He summons Mr. Souter, who comes and find that portions of the threads have been torn by the police, takes out the paper in that pocket, a paper which contained not only arsenic, but arsenic possessing precisely the same physical characteristics as the arsenic introduced into Colonel Phayre's tumbler. I cannot conceive anything more simple than that story. Mr. Souter attached no importance apparently to the examination of the belt, not expecting that anything would come of it—not supposing that at that distance of time anything would be found in it,—supposing naturally enough that Rowjee would have taken good pains on the 9th to have got rid of all suspicious articles he might have had about him. Now, surely, if there was nothing in the character of the police to protect them against the supposition that they would put the packet there, as they are suggested to have done here, and if it were not denied by Akbar Ali on oath that he had anything to do with it, it is really giving the police credit for an amount of sagacity almost superhuman, not only that they should have conceived the idea of putting the arsenic in the belt, but that they should have been so careful as to the arsenic that they procured, that it should have presented under chemical analysis exactly the same characteristics as the arsenic found in Colonel Phayre's tumbler. A policeman, supposing him to be the abandoned villain my learned friend would suppose him to be, might perhaps think of putting some arsenic in a place of this kind, but would he think that the microscope would detect him if he did not produce arsenic precisely of the same character as that used in the perpetration of the offence under investigation? That I do not suppose my learned friend would admit would be a likely thing for him to do. In fact, it is a thing so improbable as to render it perfectly incredible. It is much more probable—it is supported by the evidence and by the character of the witnesses—that instead of this being a nefarious conspiracy, as my learned friend suggested, that it was a most simple discovery arising out of the carelessness of one of the principal parties concerned, in having left this packet of arsenic which had remained over from the quantity originally supplied to him, in the belt. The belt was taken from him on the 9th November; the belt does not go into his possession again; from the 9th it is handed over to Bhooder Nursey, who certainly had no suspicions as to its contents; it is only by chance that it is sent for, not with the expectation of making any great discovery; it is examined, but when it is examined, this is found to exist, and the Police Inspector, Akbar Ali, did no more than his duty. I am sure the Commission will consider, in stopping the investigation, as soon as

he found there was something in the belt, in sending for his chief in order that it might be examined in his presence. Abdool Ali and Gujanund were also present at the time, and they have both been cross-examined by my learned friend, but not a single question was put to them on this point, although an imputation of a most grave kind has been made upon them. They were present and taking part in the examination of this belt.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine—You put no questions to them on the subject.

The Advocate-General—And it was no part of my case to clear them from an imputation which I could not think would have been made. I think therefore that the Commission will come to the conclusion that the finding of this poison in the belt of Rowjee is very strong confirmatory evidence of the truth of his story in this case. My learned friend has referred to Rowjee's statement given before Mr. Souter, and to Rowjee's evidence here as containing contradictions. I think my theory shows that there is no contradiction at all. The presence of this paper—this packet of arsenic—in the belt, was a matter occasioned purely by Rowjee's forgetfulness upon the point. My learned friend read the statement Rowjee made to Mr. Souter, in which he said in the first instance before the belt was produced,—“A few days after this the jemadar gave me two powders, and told me that equal parts of each should be administered for two or three days, and in such quantity as to consume the whole in that time. This had also been carefully explained to me by Yeshwuntrao and Salim in the presence of the Maharaja. I did not commence to administer the powders for two or three days, as no favorable opportunity presented itself for so doing.” And then further on he says, “The packet of poison which the jemadar first gave me I made into small doses as directed, and kept the powder in the secret pocket of my cross-belt. The powder taken from the secret pocket of my cross-belt this morning (25th December 1874) is one of the powders made up from the packet given to me by the jemadar, and I used always to keep the powders in the same place.” It seems to me that if this belt episode was, to use a common expression, a “plant” on the part of the police, what they would have found in Rowjee's belt would have been, not pure arsenic, but arsenic and diamond dust, because what Rowjee was told to do was to “take equal parts of each” and administer the powders. If this was a police plant, surely the intelligent policeman who could be guilty of an act of the kind would not have procured arsenic only, but arsenic and diamond dust. He would say, “Oh, yes, the man said he would administer the powders, taking equal parts; so let arsenic and diamond dust be mixed that they may be found in his belt”—not pure arsenic, because he would thereby run a risk of being found out. That, however, not having been resorted to, proves that this is not a police plant, but a true story as to the finding of the arsenic. When the witness is asked whether the powder taken from his secret pocket is one of those given to him by the jemadar, he says it is; but he does not say that it is one of the packets made up of a combination of diamond dust and arsenic, but he says: “It is one of the packets made up from the packets given to me by the jemadar,” and he explains when he is examined before the Commission, how that packet was made, and he follows the theory which my learned friend adopts, and which I also adopt, that he did not wish to poison his master, but knowing or believing the white powder, from the effects experienced by himself, was very deleterious, he only put in one pinch out of the white packet into the others; he did not put in the whole of it, but merely a pinch, keeping the other back; so that would account for the remnant of the arsenic being found in his belt; and it was there found under such circumstances as to be entirely denuded of suspicion, and to be incapable of bearing the construction put upon them by my learned friend. I think a careful review of the whole of the circumstances connected with the finding of this powder in the belt will go far to satisfy the Commission that Rowjee was speaking the truth in regard to this point. There was one other point in Rowjee's evidence on which my learned friend relied and that was this that when he was examined by Colonel Phayre on the 9th or 10th of November or at a later date—I am

Damodhur Punt to fear—nothing to implicate him—nothing to show that he had any concern whatever in these transactions. After remaining for some days under a guard of the Gaekwar's troops in the Senaputtee's kutchery in the Palace, he was removed to the Residency, and there placed under a European guard. That there was reason for that step, we may well imagine, though those reasons probably had nothing to do with any investigation relating to this case. He remained under this guard, without any interference on the part of the police at all. He is brought one day from the European guard, under which he was confined, to a tent in the Residency compound, in order that he may be present at the time that certain papers, which had been sealed up at the Palace, might be investigated, and the seals broken before him. He is present at that investigation, but does not appear to have taken any very active part in pointing out the documents found in the packets then unsealed. The clerks employed under him were there, going through the papers, unconnected with the police. He is present, apparently, when those four cash books, or *roz-ki-yads* on which the blotches of ink had been made, are discovered. The appearance of these may have led him to suppose that something might be discovered in regard to him also, and upon that same occasion he is spoken to by one of the police officers, Gujanund Vithul, who tells him simply, that it would be better for him if he speaks the truth, if he knows anything at all about the matter. Nothing more, apparently, is said to him. He returns to his confinement under the European guard; he remains there for two days, making up his mind perhaps, and then communicates with Gujanund Vithul, saying that if he gets a pardon, he will speak the truth. He accordingly gets an offer of pardon and makes his statement, not to the police, not to Mr. Souter, not to Akbar Ali or Abdool Ali, not to Gujanund, but to Mr. Richey, the Assistant Resident, who records his deposition. I apprehend these are facts which will weigh with the Commission, in considering whether or not Damodhur Punt ought to be believed. He has told us that although he knew that Rowjee and Nursoo had been arrested, and had made their statements, he did not know what they had stated, and that, I apprehend, is a matter which may be taken as one of almost absolute certainty. Up to the time Damodhur Punt was arrested, the statements made by Nursoo and Rowjee would be most carefully guarded. These were the materials upon which His Excellency the Viceroy had to act, and it cannot be supposed for a moment that the nature of documents so important would be communicated to any one: on the contrary, it may be supposed that these documents would be most carefully guarded from inspection by all persons other than those who had a right to see them. Damodhur Punt makes his statement, and his statement is in evidence before the Commission. As I have already stated, he does not implicate Rowjee and Nursoo in regard to the visits to the Palace, because, as he says, he knew nothing about those visits, and all he does is to give evidence which most seriously implicates the Maharaja and gives it in a manner which shows that it could not possibly be the result of tutoring by the police or Damodhur Punt's own imagination. The police could not have had the slightest inkling as to the matters he speaks of, and knowing that Rowjee and Nursoo had made statements, he could not possibly have given to these statements the corroboration he has given, unless he had been speaking the truth. Let us suppose that it was a police conspiracy,—would not the first thing that would occur to the police be to say to Damodhur Punt that "Rowjee and Nursoo were in the habit of going to the Haveli, and used to say that they went in by the entrance at the back by the Nuzzer Bagh, and used to see the Maharaja there. You were about the Palace from morning to night, and you must have seen them there?" He does not describe the whole affair at all, and truly a remarkable characteristic of his statement is that, although he speaks mostly as to his own statements, and matters passing between himself and the Maharaja, he makes no attempt whatever to connect Rowjee and Nursoo with the matters then the subject of enquiry, except stating that he saw Rowjee at Nowsaree, and mentioning a packet that he had to give to Rowjee. But Nursoo he does not mention at all, and the ayah he does not mention. In point of fact, none of the other persons who visited the Palace from the Residency are mentioned by him,

so that he does not mention even that Rowjee visited the Palace to his knowledge. He only says that he heard Rowjee used to write letters almost daily to the Palace of what was going on at the Residency. It is important to notice that all he says about Rowjee is that he saw Rowjee at Nowsaree, and that he was told to give a packet to Salim to give to Rowjee, and that he did so. Now, it has been sought here to discredit the evidence of Damodhur Punt by the evidence of Hemchund Futteychund. Hemchund had made a statement to Mr. Souter, which statement he had repeated to Sir Lewis Pelly. To these officers he had declared that his statement was true, and had appended his signature to it. But when he came into the witness-box here, he was so eager to shew that he had come to unsay all that he had said previously, that it was quite painful to notice the obvious perjury he was committing. The evidence of Hemchund will be found at page 137 of the short-hand writer's notes. I may best convey an idea of his eagerness to depose against his former statement by reading the first few answers he gave: "My name is Hemchund Futteychund. I live at Baroda. I carry on business as a jeweller. I know Nanajee Vithul well. He is in the service of the Gaekwar. I have never taken any jewels to him." Mr. Inverarity repeated the question.—"Have you never taken any jewels to Nanajee Vithul?—Witness—Of what value?—Have you ever done so?—At what month or what date?—About last Dusserah.—No, I didn't take anything about last Dusserah. I never took any diamonds to Nanajee Vithul. I have not taken any diamonds to the Haveli lately. I did so about the time of the last Dusserah. Nanajee Vithul said, "Bring some diamonds." I did take some, but they were given back to me. I took them to Nanajee Vithul from our house. I never took these diamonds back to the Haveli again. I never went back with any diamonds to the Haveli. After that occasion I never took any diamonds to the Haveli. About the time of last Dusserah no diamonds were purchased from me by Nanajee Vithul. I have never received any money in payment or in part payment of diamonds from Nanajee Vithul. In the month of Kartak Macksa (corresponding to October and November) I received from Nanajee Vithul a sum of money that was due to me." He began by saying that he had never taken any diamonds at the time of the Dusserah, and then he says that he did so. In fact he is so eager to unsay what he had previously said, that he forgets to discriminate between that which he might admit without any danger, and that which he might not admit without danger to His Highness. He says, that when the diamonds were returned, he never took diamonds to the Haveli, but he goes on to say: "I know Venayekrao Venkitish. I have taken diamonds to him at the Palace. I took them on the 7th or 8th of Assoo-vud (31st October and 1st November, 1874). Venayekrao is the brother-in-law of Nanajee Vithul. He is employed at the Gaekwar's jewelkhana. I gave these diamonds to Venayekrao at the jewelkhana. I took them there by Venayekrao's direction. On that occasion I took two packets of diamonds to Venayekrao. These packets were not bought. The diamonds were rose diamonds." Then my learned friend, with the permission of the Commission, put to him the statement he had made before Mr. Souter, and read out the passages to him as they had been taken down by Mr. Souter from the deposition which Mr. Souter said had been taken down, and he was asked, "Did you make that statement to Mr. Souter?" He answered, "I did not. They caused me to write what they liked." "Who are they?" "I mean Gujanund Vithul." "How much of that statement that has been read to you is incorrect?" Answer, "It is all false." And although at the beginning of his evidence, after all the quibbling and shuffling to which I have just called your attention, he admitted that a great part of it was true. Reliance upon the evidence of a witness of this kind is perfectly impossible. He does not discriminate between what is true and false. He boldly states that all he had stated before was false, and at the same time admits that a considerable part of it was true. Hemchund has been shown to be a man having very large dealings with His Highness—not only in made-up ornaments, but also in loose precious stones. In fact, he appears to have had his best customer in His Highness, and doubtless he had a great desire to

do him a service, if he could, even at the risk of his conscience, and he has rendered that service in the way I have described—a way which has deprived his testimony of all value. He says that all that was recorded in his statement by Gujanund was put down by himself, but that there is not a single word of truth in it. It strikes me as singular that when his deposition was read over to him before Sir Lewis Pelly, he should not have turned round and said that the police had forced him to make it, and that he wanted to be protected. Had he made such an appeal, it would have been listened to, and the result would have been a most searching enquiry, which would have been of greater service to the Maharaja than his subsequent conduct has been. I pass over the obvious falsehoods he told us about not knowing Hindoostanee. The innocent air with which he asked “What is Hindoostani?”—apparently not knowing that there was such a language at all—was astonishing, the fact being that Mr. Souter addressed him in Hindoostani at the time when he first saw him. I merely mention, *en passant*, the way in which he equivocated about the statement he had undoubtedly given before Mr. Souter. He at first said that the signature did not look like his, and then, afterwards, he admitted that it was his signature, and a variety of other matters in his evidence showed him to be a man utterly unscrupulous and incapable of distinguishing between truth and falsehood. He professed that he did not recognise Mr. Souter, although he was told to look at him in the presence of the Commission. Now the more important part of his evidence to be considered is his story about his book. He says this book was made up for him by the police. Here, again, one is called on to express extreme surprise at the extraordinary stupidity of the police. Supposing my learned friend’s theory is true, can one imagine a police officer so utterly ignorant of what was plausible under these circumstances as to make such entries in Hemchund’s books as Hemchund says Gujanund caused him to write? These two entries at the end of the book, as the Commission will remember, appear under date the 7th or 8th November 1874. Now, the evidence of Hemchund is that the ornaments were taken by him to the Palace, and would be entered in his *Yungud Nond*, or Book of Ornaments, taken on approval to different parties. The evidence shows that the date on which he says he took these jewels, would be about the 7th or 8th of the Dusserah—that is about the 27th October—and can any one suppose a police officer causing a man to write in his books any entry which did not correspond with the evidence that he proposed to adduce before the Court? I must say that I cannot understand a police officer causing a man to make an entry in his books which did not correspond with the statements that the police officer intended to bring forward. Yet that is what my learned friend would seek to lead the Commission to infer from Hemchund Futteychund’s story. Now, the witness Hurjeewundass, who was called as an expert, showed perfectly clearly that this *Yungud Nond* had been tampered with by some one in a very serious and comprehensive way. There were five *juz* which were genuine—the former part of the original book. There was a sixth *juz*, the paper of which corresponded with the paper of the first five *juz*—from which one leaf was missing—and then came these two *juz*, the 7th and the 8th, composed of different paper, which, according to the opinion of this expert, must have been put into the book at a time subsequent to the making of the book. Now, to give colour to the man’s story about the police making these entries, the Commission must suppose that the whole of the alterations from the end of the 5th *juz* were made by the police. The fifth *juz* ended with a part of an entry which was continued on the sixth *juz*, in different handwriting. This perhaps is not very important, because the witness said that he used to get anybody that was passing his shop to make entries in his books for him, and that may account for the difference in the handwriting; or, at all events, it may have occurred in this way—supposing the sixth *juz* to have been tampered with he was obliged to destroy the writing between the last page of the fifth *juz* and the sixth, and could not get the same man to continue the writing on the sixth *juz*. But, however that may be, the Commission has the fact before it that the book has been tampered with, according to the statement of Hemchund Futteychund before Mr. Souter and Sir Lewis Pelly. The story that he gives as to this tampering is contained in

page 139 of the short-hand writer's notes, but that statement is certainly not in accord with the condition of his books, and is not in accord with the story he has told us here. It is not pretended that the entries on all the pages of the last *juz* with the exception of the two entries at the end regarding the diamond chips, were not genuine. He says they are all genuine on the fifth *juz*, and they are also all genuine on the sixth *juz*, and they are also all genuine on the seventh, but there is a missing page on the sixth *juz*, which he does not attempt to account for. He says that all the following entries are perfectly true, until you get to the last ones, which he says he was compelled by Gujanund to make. Now, if his story is to hang together consistently with the evidence he has given and the evidence given in the matter before the Commission, it is perfectly clear that all the *juzes* after the fifth should have been subjected to manipulation by Gujanund Vithul, but he says that was not so, but that all the entries are genuine until we get to the last entries in question. Now it seems to be much more probable that this original story was the true one, and that the missing page was removed in order to conceal the original entry about the diamonds, and that he put down the time of the year in subsequent entries in order that he might not be without some record of his having taken these diamonds to the Palace, and that at the same time there should be nothing to show but that he took these diamonds at a time when no improper purposes could be attributed to them. Now there is only one page gone from the 6th *juz*, and the whole of the 7th *juz* is new. It is perfectly clear that either upon that page, or upon some part of the following *juz*, this transaction as to the diamonds should have been entered. Now my learned friend, in regard to the evidence of this witness, urged it strongly as a reason for believing that the police should have fabricated the two entries, that the hoondees were not mentioned by Gujanund in the statement which he drew up for Hemchund to sign. My learned friend obviously knew all about the transactions of the hoondees, from which it is reasonable to suppose that Hemchund had been in communication with those who are instructing him. These hoondees are entered as of the date of June, they bear on the face of them the following month of July, and the transaction is closed long before we come to the time of the Dusserra or Dewalee. No doubt he had a record of a transaction with one Sivchund Khooshalchund, and he says the account belongs to Nanajee Vithul with regard to some ornaments; but that transaction was closed with the hoondees. The purchase money was Rupees 7,000 and the amount of the hoondees was Rupees 7,000. But it became necessary, in order to conceal these transactions in regard to the diamonds, that Sivchund's account should be taken up again, although there were no transactions with that person subsequently to July. In order to divert attention from the transaction in regard to the diamond chips, it became necessary, as I have already said, to continue this account of Sivchund. Sivchund is a Poona man, and the mention of his name in the books would not be likely to attract attention. These payments thus sworn to by witnesses here to have been made in regard to diamond chips are entries in Hemchund's books, in account with Sivchund, notwithstanding that there was no account with Sivchund at the time. Hemchund says that the account which continued in the name of Sivchund was really the account of Nanajee Vithul. I think I have made myself perfectly clear that the transaction referring to the jewels as purchased by Nanajee Vithul from Sivchund was the cause of this account, but that this account was closed, so far as Nanajee Vithul was concerned, and there was therefore no further account in the book of Hemchund to which Sivchund was a party. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that that payment was made in regard to the diamond chips. There were two payments, one of two thousand rupees, and another which amounted to one thousand rupees. The former was really a payment of two thousand rupees, but the latter was accounted for by a hoondee for Rs. 750, and was in favor of Venayekrao Venkatesh—a transaction with which Sivchund had nothing whatever to do; it seems to be a transaction entirely for the convenience of Venayekrao. The other payment was credited to Sivchund. When were those payments made? One in December, and the

at the time they were sealed up in the Palace. They were not discovered by the police, but by the Palace carkoons who were examining them. My learned friend suggests that this obliteration was done by the police, but as I have already said, that would be a singularly clumsy device to adopt, and it was more likely to have been done by some clerk who had been told to obliterate Salim's name from the *duftur*, and stopped doing so when he found what a clumsy job he was making of it. Why it was desired to obliterate these entries is tolerably clear. The obliterated daily cash accounts refer to the *yads* which are in evidence as N 1, O 1, P 1, Q 1, the very first of which relates to the payment of Rs. 1,000 to Salim on the 8th June 1874, which I have already referred to as corresponding to the payment of Rs. 800 to Nursoo and Rowjee. This document, for instance, must have appeared to Damodhur Punt one that it was very desirable to get rid of. Indeed, it seems to me, my Lord, that the only reasonable explanation that can be given of these obliterated cash accounts is the one Damodhur Punt has supplied, and any other suggestion regarding them is so incredible as to be undeserving of serious attention. I have already referred to Hemchund's evidence as being evidence on the face of it utterly untrustworthy, and I think it must have been clear to all who heard him how he came to give it. He was not under the charge of the police, but lived in the city, where he was therefore accessible to the influence of any injudicious friend of His Highness to alter the statements he had previously given. It seems to me to be a matter of almost necessary inference that he, being capable of being worked upon by some injudicious friend of His Highness to come here and perjure himself, came and did so in the way you must have noticed. Now, my Lord, I have gone through the particular portions of the evidence of these four witnesses to whom my learned friend referred as supplying a reason why they should not be credited, and I think, I have answered every one of my learned friend's arguments in regard to these witnesses. It must be perfectly clear that each of the four material witnesses made one statement deliberately and completely ignorant of all knowledge of what the others had said. I call attention to the statement at page 80 of the notes where Rowjee alludes to the only communication he had with Nursoo after his arrest, and to page 91 at which Nursoo describes the interview at somewhat greater length. Akbar Ali's evidence on the point at page 106 and Gujanund's at page 164 are also worth referring to. Then, again, Sir Lewis Pelly's evidence (page 179) as to the manner in which Nursoo gave his statement ought to show conclusively to the Commission that it was given without any pressure of any kind and after considerable time for deliberation had been granted to him. It must be remembered also that Nursoo has always been under charge of a military and not a police guard. My learned friend said—and no doubt there was a certain amount of poetical justice in his complaint—that it was heard that Nursoo, who was probably the least villain among the chief witnesses, should have been the only man who was refused a pardon, but what would my learned friend have said if Nursoo had come here also to give his evidence with a pardon, of course he would have said,—why all those men have agreed to ruin the Maharaja because they know they are free from all fear of punishment. There is a great deal of force in the observations made by my learned friend as to the undesirability of having statements made before the police. In the regulation districts of India, provision is made that that shall not be done, but special cases require special procedure, and it must be remembered that this was an enquiry under special instructions from the Viceroy, who sent the police here on this special duty. There was no Magistrate before whom all these witnesses could have been taken. The Maharaja was still on the *gadee* in possession of his power, and it would have been, I won't say improper, but indelicate, had Sir Lewis Pelly undertaken the duty of hearing all depositions in the case.

The President—Was there no one on the spot exercising the powers of a magistrate.

The Advocate-General—There was the Cantonment Magistrate Dr. Seward, but he has no jurisdiction over the Residency or the City. It would have been

inconsistent with Sir Lewis Pelly's position to take any active part in the investigations, and it was in consequence of his own desire and feeling that it would not be right for him to do so that Mr. Souther was appointed to come here on special duty. Besides the general work of administration in relation to the State was quite enough to occupy the whole time both of Sir Lewis Pelly and his Assistant Mr. Richey. Now, my Lord, I apprehend, that, having regard to the fact that the person incriminated was in uncontrolled exercise of his power, and that this was an enquiry into an attempt made upon the Resident's life, it is perfectly obvious that that enquiry could not have been left to the officers engaged in the course of their political duties with His Highness or to Dr. Seward, who, besides having no jurisdiction beyond the limits of the Cantonment, was also a material witness in the case. I think, therefore, that, as far as this part of the question is concerned, the observations of my learned friend lose all their point, and no fault can be found with the special procedure in this case. My learned friend has said that in pursuing their investigations, the police really practised torture on the witnesses. I fail to find, on the record, evidence of any statement or expression which can, in the slightest degree, justify that phrase, unless we are to take it that leaving witnesses by themselves, and telling them that other witnesses had spoken the truth, was torture. There is a torture, no doubt, to which these witnesses who may have taken an active part in the conspiracy, may have been subject—but that was the torture of their own consciences, and not a torture inflicted upon them by the police; other torture there was none—the torture, as I have said, was the torture conscience could place upon men who had put themselves in such a position. In regard to the observations made by my learned friend as to the impropriety of telling one person or another who was apprehended that others who had been engaged in the same transaction had made a confession, and that therefore the persons so informed should themselves speak the truth, although, no doubt, in past years, under the decisions of the Courts in England, it was held that it was improper to tell a witness that he had better tell the truth, I think the doctrine so laid down has long ago been exploded. I do not wish to refer to any cases in England, and I have refrained from doing so throughout the case, but on this particular point I may quote the case of the Queen *versus* Jervis, which is reported in the first volume, Crown Cases, Reserved, in the new series of the Law Reports at page 96—the Commission will find there a most elaborate judgment of Mr. Justice Willes, to which I have referred, in which he holds as perfectly paradoxical the theory that to advise a person to speak the truth, and that a confession made upon that, is not perfectly good in such a case.

The President asked as to the date of the case alluded to.

The Advocate-General said that his memory was not clear upon the point, but that he thought it was in 1868 or 1869.

The President also asked the Advocate-General if he knew who the person was who told the witness to tell the truth.

The Advocate-General said that he could not remember at that moment who had said that, and he requested leave to read from Taylor's well-known work on evidence with regard to the case he had just referred to—"But when confessions have been rejected in consequence of such expressions as the following having been used:—'It will be better for you to speak the truth;' 'It is of no use for you to deny it, for there are the man and boy who will swear they saw you do it;' 'Now be cautious in the answers you give me to the questions I am going to put to you about this watch;' 'Whatever you say will be taken down and used against you;' 'Do not say anything to prejudice yourself, as what you say I shall take down, and it will be used for you or against you at your trial;' 'What you are charged with is a very heavy offence, and you must be very careful in making any statement to me, or anybody else that may tend to injure you; but anything you can say in your defence, we shall be ready to

hear, or send to assist you; in these and the like cases, it is only too apparent, that justice and common sense have been sacrificed on the shrine of mercy. Indeed, the judges themselves have of late years come to this conclusion, and after solemn discussion of the subject in the Court of Criminal Appeal, they have expressly over-ruled the last three decisions cited above, as cases which are discreditable to the law. So anxious was the Court at one time to exclude evidence of confessions, that exhortations not to tell lies, but to *speal the truth*, have been deemed likely to induce a *false* acknowledgment of guilt; and consequently, admissions made after such exhortations have more than once been rejected. But this paradoxical opinion is now happily exploded." Now, my Lord, there is nothing more shown to have taken place here. The witnesses have been severely cross-examined, but nothing more has been shown than that the witnesses were confronted one with another, and that Rowjee said to Nursoo "I have told the truth up to my neck," and that the only advice given to Damodhur Punt by Gujanund was to the effect that he should tell the truth; and so cautions, I may say, was Damodhur Punt as to the promise of pardon, that Gujanund had to show him the part of the Criminal Procedure Code which relates to the granting of pardons. I say that there is nothing whatever to justify the assumption of my learned friend that this is a police case, or that it was got up by the police or that the witnesses have been subject to intimidation. So far as the statement of the witness Ameena Ayah was concerned, and the statements of the other witnesses by whom she was corroborated, these statements related to charges which the police were not then engaged in investigating; for they were then only engaged in trying to find out who had attempted to poison Colonel Phayre, and it was not until the Gaekwar had been suspended that the charge of holding improper communications with the Residency servants was brought forward.

The Advocate-General concluded his address as follows:—My Lord, I think that upon a review of the mere circumstances under which these statements were made to the police, upon a consideration of the evidence which has been given before the Commission, and upon a comparison of that evidence so given under circumstances which allowed to the defence the fullest opportunity of cross-examination, upon a comparison of that evidence with the statements made by the witness Rowjee, I think this Commission cannot but come to the conclusion that the witnesses examined here have substantially spoken the truth. That my learned friend's ingenuity should have found discrepancies in their evidence, I am not surprised, nor I believe, are the Members of the Commission; but that these discrepancies do not affect the main facts of the story will be abundantly clear to the Commission when they come to review the evidence. The only witness who has not adhered to his statement, is Hemchund Futtychund who has perjured himself in the face of the Commission, perjured himself under circumstances which, I think, fully justified the police in detaining the other witnesses in such a manner that they also should not be exposed to the outward influences which have obviously been brought to bear upon Hemchund Futtychund. Against the mass of the testimony brought forward here in support of the charges against His Highness the Gaekwar, not a single title of evidence has been adduced. I have in the course of my address to the Commission pointed out the numerous matters in which it should have been possible and easy for my learned friend, had he been so advised, to have produced witnesses to contradict the statements put forward by the witnesses called by me. Not one of these witnesses was produced by my learned friend, and the Commission will draw their own conclusions from that circumstance. As to Yeshwuntrao and Salim, my learned friend has stated that in the exercise of what, I am sure, was the soundest discretion, he had decided not to call them. My learned friend was not able to speak in terms of much approval of Yeshwuntrao and Salim, but when it is remembered that these two men were the confidential servants of His Highness the Gaekwar up to the time of their arrest, and that ever since their arrest they have been kept under a military guard, that they have had no communication whatever with the police, and that since the arrest of His Highness, his solicitors have been allowed the most unrestricted private communication with them, I must say it strikes me as very surprising that my learned friend has not called upon them to give their evidence,

- (4).—A Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the Excise administration of the Lower Provinces, with especial reference to certain memorials submitted to the Governments of India and of Bengal on the subject.
- (5).—A memorial from the Reverend J. D. Don and other Members of the Calcutta Missionary Conference, submitted to the Government of Bengal.
- (6).—A memorial from the Bengal Temperance Society, submitted to the Government of Bengal.
- (7).—A memorial from Raja Romanath Tagore and other inhabitants of the Bengal Presidency, submitted to the Government of India.
- (8).—A memorial from Raja Kalikrishna Bahadoor and other inhabitants of the Bengal Presidency, submitted to the Government of India.
- (9).—A letter from Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

2. The Draft Bill submitted herewith embodies those amendments of the existing law which appear to the Lieutenant-Governor to be called for, and I am to request the approval of the Governor General in Council to the introduction of this Bill into the Bengal Legislative Council.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. J. REYNOLDS.

No. 1.

Minute by A. MONEY, Esq., C. B., Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of the Department of Excise.

THE letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 2192 of the 28th October last, desires me to report on the abkaree administration of Bengal in connection with certain petitions presented to both the Supreme and Local Governments on that subject.

2. It will be convenient first to enumerate the statements, allegations, and charges contained in those petitions. They are as follows:—

- 1st.—That drinking has of late years greatly increased, more particularly among the upper classes.
- 2nd.—That the revenue authorities have promoted the spread of intemperance by multiplying liquor shops, and by giving praise and promotion to officers who have helped to increase the excise revenue.
- 3rd.—That the adoption of the habit of drinking has been facilitated by the importation of low-priced spirits, and, as regards Calcutta, by the extension of time in the evening during which shops may be kept open.
- 4th.—That the consumption of opium and of ganja has also increased of late years.
- 5th.—That the increased habit of drinking has been a prolific source of crime and immorality.
- 6th.—That in Calcutta facilities are afforded for drinking at night by a practice prevalent in certain dispensaries of supplying liquor under the guise of medicine.
- 7th.—That retail shops generally possess back doors, through which liquor is clandestinely sold at prohibited hours.

3. The remedies proposed are—

- 1st.—To impose a higher rate of duty.
- 2nd.—To raise the license fees of shops.
- 3rd.—To open no new shop in any locality except on the application of two-thirds of the rate-payers of the locality (some of the petitioners would substitute residents for rate-payers).
- 4th.—To close any existing shop if two-thirds of the rate-payers of the locality petition for such closing (according to some of the petitioners for rate-payers *read* residents).
- 5th.—To transfer from Collectors to Municipalities the power of granting licenses.
- 6th.—To reduce the number of shops generally throughout the country.
- 7th.—To prohibit any drinking on the premises.
- 8th.—To provide that no liquor shop should have either door or window except in front on the roadside.

9*th*.—To insist on all liquor shops being closed at sunset.

10*th*.—To close all liquor shops in the vicinity of educational institutions or places of public worship.

11*th*.—To discontinue the practice of praising revenue officers in charge of the Excise Department under whose administration the revenue has increased.

12*th*.—To regulate the sale of liquor from dispensaries.

13*th*.—Similarly from hotels and other places of public entertainment.

14*th*.—To refuse renewal of licenses to shopkeepers convicted of offences under the abkaree laws.

15*th*.—To employ a special staff of officers to act as excise police.

4. The petitions are signed by representatives of the best educated and most influential natives in and near Calcutta, also by some European gentlemen whose opinions are entitled to great weight. They represent a widespread belief that a great social evil is on the increase, that it is within the power of Government to check its development, and that Government has failed in this duty.

5. I entirely agree with the petitioners in their statement as to the increase of the habit of drinking during late years, especially in towns and among the higher classes. I differ with them as to the extent to which Government action can check this tendency. I deny that Government has ever wilfully preferred considerations of revenue to the welfare of the people; but I must admit that ignorance of the subject in former times has introduced and fostered systems directly conducive to the multiplication of liquor shops, and therefore to the promotion of drinking. There is also no doubt that mistaken zeal on the part of local officers has often led to the same results.

6. On the first point I have asked for the opinions of local officers. The answers show a great diversity of opinion. The increase of the habit of drinking is admitted by some officers; denied by others. The denials, however, refer more to the agricultural classes, and generally apply only to the last six or eight years. So limited, there is undoubtedly truth in these denials as regards some districts. I believe the fact to be this,—All over Bengal there is more drinking now than there was twenty years ago, and there was more twenty years ago than forty years ago. But in some districts there has been no increase in the villages during the last six or eight years (in Backergunge, Fureedpore, Patna, Tirhoot, Maldah, and Bogra, it is positively stated that there has been a decrease); while the increase in towns and among the higher classes has been general. There is also no doubt that intemperance among the higher classes radiates from Calcutta as from a central focus. All testimony shows that the habit is most prevalent in the districts nearest the metropolis. It is very sad to see how prevalent is the opinion that intemperance naturally follows upon the receipt of English education.

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11. The excise of liquor has in Bengal been conducted under three general systems—the farming, the daily or monthly tax, also called the outstill, and the sudder distillery. The general distinguishing features of the three systems are as follows:—

Farming.—Under this system the excise revenue, sometimes of a district, sometimes of part of a district, was farmed out on tenders invited and selected. The farmer worked outstills by his own servants, or under-fermed the right as regarded each outstill. Generally, the second was the mode adopted.

Daily Tax or Outstill.—The Collector decides where shops for the retail sale of country liquor are required. He then puts up to auction for the ensuing year the right to set up a still at the place indicated, and to open a shop in connection with such still. The bidder of the highest amount of daily or monthly tax gets the right.

Sudder Distillery.—Certain central distillery buildings are erected by Government, and at these any number of distillers the building can accommodate are allowed to set up stills. The liquor distilled is tested by a hydrometer before leaving the distillery, and pays duty according to its strength. The duty varies from a maximum of three rupees per gallon, London proof, to a minimum of one rupee per gallon, London proof, according to the average means of the consuming classes in the district. In the Patna and Moughyr distilleries the duty has been levied lately on the raw material (mowah) from which the liquor is distilled, not on the liquor. The liquor is sold by the distiller to shopkeepers, who pay a license fee for leave to keep open a retail shop.

12. The daily tax was the system first in force. In 1790 certain rules were passed, afterwards re-enacted, with modifications in Regulation XXXIV of 1793. All persons were prohibited from manufacturing or vending spirituous liquors and intoxicating drugs without licenses from the Collectors. The manufacture and sale of liquors were confined to towns and villages to be selected by the Collectors, and divided into classes according to their size and population. A daily tax, at rates varying with reference to the importance of the localities, was imposed on each still (and the sale of all drugs was subjected to a tax to be fixed annually by the Board of Revenue with the sanction of Government). Further, a tax was ordered to be levied on unfermented tari at the rate of 25 per cent. on the amount of rent payable by the *passeees*,—i. e., the persons whose trade is to collect and sell the juice to the proprietors of

applicants who were not suspected characters. Complete freedom of trade was the theory and the rule." The first check imposed was the consulting of Magistrates and Superintendents of Police in granting licenses for shops. This dates from 1867.

25. The sudder distillery system is the one in force now in most parts of Bengal. It has not fulfilled the hopes of those who insisted on its extension throughout the presidency. Perfect in theory, it has two weak points in practice—the facilities it affords for fraud, and the temptations and comparative immunity it holds out to illicit distillation. The men who enter into the ranks of the excise staff are not of the best class, and no means have yet been devised to successfully prevent combination between them and the distillers and shopkeepers. It is so easy and so simple to let out of the distillery 50 gallons of spirit, taking duty on only 40, and entering only 40 in the books, the profit on the odd 10 being divided between the distillery darogah and the shopkeeper, or to enter the whole 50 in the register, but at a strength much below the real strength, levying the duty on the registered strength, and dividing the profit on the strength which has escaped taxation.

26. For the detection of illicit distillation, the revenue authorities have almost entirely to trust to the police, and experience has proved that the police are of very little use as abkaree detectives. Nor is this to be wondered at. Illicit distillation is carried on inside the house, and the sale of the liquor in most cases proves nothing, as the distiller is the shopkeeper licensed by Government. As Commissioner of Bhagulpore I had a statement prepared of all licensed shopkeepers in the division, showing what amount of liquor each one had taken during a specified time from the distillery.

"A statement of the number of gallons cleared out from each public distillery during March 1868, the duty paid, and the number of shops supplied by the distillery (marked D). A glance at these figures shows that in March 1868, after the sudder distillery system had been some years in force, many shops were, as regards the distillery returns, carried on at an undoubted loss, that is to say, that the amount of duty-paying liquor sold by them would not have given a profit to cover the license fees and other expenses. Thus, in Cuttack, there were 5 such shops, in Balasore 6, Backergunge 18, Dacca 6, Furreedpore 28 (whole number in the district), Mymensingh 18, Sylhet 18, Noakholly 27, Champaran 10, Tirhoot 11, Moorshedabad 31, Pubna 27, Rungpore 19, Singbhoon 5, Purneah 11, Jessore 13, Nuddea 7, 24-Pergunnahs 22 (the whole number in the district), Bankoora 2, Bardwan 21, Hooghly 46, Midnapore 18."

In 1868, shortly after I joined the Board, I had similar statements prepared for all Bengal. The result, as reported to the Government in 1870, is given in the marginal extract.

27. Now what is proved by the fact that an abkaree shopkeeper is carrying on his business without profit, according to the distillery books, is that he is making an illicit profit, either by getting liquor out of the distillery free of duty, or by selling, under cover of his license, liquor distilled surreptitiously on his own premises.

28. The extent to which these practices are carried on will, of course, depend on the watchfulness of the local authorities, on the pressure put upon the police, and on attention to the subject by the Revenue Board and Commissioners. But it is only a question of degree. When Board, Commissioner, and Collector have done all they can do, there will still remain a great deal of liquor going into consumption which pays no duty, and over the manufacture and sale of which no control can be exercised.

29. It is on this point that the sudder distillery system contrasts unfavourably with the monthly tax or outstill system. Under this latter system, illicit distillation was almost impossible. The man who paid a monthly fee for the right to distil was the best preventive the Government could get. Within the radius supplied by him no illicit still could be opened unknown to him; and, as the knowledge was certain and denouncement equally so, it followed that the attempt was not made.

30. All the petitions presented to Government display a remarkable ignorance on this point. The whole argument is based on the supposition that it is the duty-paying liquor, and that only, against which precautions have to be taken.

31. The matter is not so easy as petitioners think. Government and the Board have honestly for some years been doing their best to counteract the effects of former ignorance, of bad systems, and of a growing taste for liquor. It is not true of the present time that abkaree officers are praised and receive promotion for increasing the revenue by increasing the facilities for drinking. The only petition which backs up a general statement to this effect relies upon a quotation of 1852-53, and even that quotation does not prove the position. What abkaree officers are praised for, and brought to the notice of Government for, is when their efforts increase the revenue, without multiplying shops or even simultaneously with a decreased number; and this is right, for the increase of revenue under such circumstances is a certain proof of a careful and efficient discharge of duties, resulting in a check on illicit distillation and on removal from the distillery of liquor paying no duty.

32. Petitioners are apparently persuaded that Government has but to raise the duty, to place obstructions in the way of people who want liquor, to forbid sales at night, &c., and sobriety and morality must follow. They are unaware to what extent illicit distillation and fraudulent practices are fostered by every movement in a repressive direction, and how careful those who administer this branch of administration have to be not to fall into Seylla when avoiding Charybdis.

33. Not only do difficulties placed in the way of licit sales give an impetus to illicit ones, but they tend to substitute for a comparatively harmless stimulant, stimulants of a noxious kind, such as ganja and opium. Of this I have seen many proofs. It may be urged against this last objection that it could be met by raising a prohibitory duty on those two drugs; but this argument would also be a mistake, for the result would be an immense stimulus given to the smuggling of opium from the cultivators, and would lead to the substitution of wild ganja for the cultivated plant of Rajshahye.

rence in Calcutta; but I cannot discover the connection between drink and offences requiring skill. The most celebrated dacoit I ever knew, who gave me an account of more than a hundred dacoities, in most of which he had been the leader, never tasted liquor; and a New York burglar, perhaps the most expert in his profession who ever visited India, was described to me by the Captain of the ship in which he came to this country as the most sober man who had ever sailed with him.

"In England it is said that drinking promotes intemperance, intemperance undermines morality, immorality is the immediate cause of crime; also that intemperance is supported by extravagance, which leads to poverty, and poverty to crime.

"These theories may apply to England, but not to Bengal; for here intemperance is generally the result, and not the cause of immorality; and living is so cheap that poverty is not starvation, as it is often in England, so as to lead to crime. Dacoits and thieves do not rob because they are poor or starving, but because they can earn their daily bread easier by crime than by labour. Neither has it been shown that men who take to crime from starvation during famine, &c., in this country are addicted to liquor.

"Whether there are liquor shops or not, there will be immorality and crime; and so long as liquor shops are properly supervised by the police, so as to prevent the meeting of bad characters and the concoction of robberies, &c., I do not think that they cause much difference one way or the other in crime."

39. The last year for which I have been able to get comparative figures for all India is 1872-73.

The following statement gives the results bearing on the subject under report:—

PRESIDENCY.				Population.	Abkaree revenue.	Amount per head.	REMARKS.
					Rs.	Rs. A. P.	
Oudh	...	...	...	11,198,095	6,44,430	0 0 11	
Central Provinces	...	...	...	7,985,411	10,24,100	0 2 0	
British Burmah	...	...	...	2,463,484	11,23,440	0 7 0	
Bengal	...	...	...	66,856,859	69,66,830	0 1 8	
North-Western Provinces	...	...	...	30,014,921	20,30,900	0 1 1	
Punjab	...	...	...	17,611,498	8,76,330	0 0 9	
Madras	...	...	...	26,539,136	61,68,440	0 3 8	
Bombay	...	...	...	12,407,579	41,87,470	0 5 4	
TOTAL				175,076,983	2,30,21,940	.....

40. It will be seen that Bengal contrasts favorably with British Burmah, Bombay, Madras, and Central Provinces.

41. During the last few years the subject of excise has received a good deal of attention in Bengal. My object since I have had this department under me has been to obtain for Government as much as can be got of the profit which arises from the sale of drink, while reducing the temptations which lead astray the weak, the ignorant, and those who have a natural inclination for stimulants. In this view the number of liquor shops where the sudder distillery system is in force has been regulated and reduced; a strong repression has been placed on the tendency to license an unnecessary number of outstills in districts, or parts of districts, in which the monthly tax system prevails. No outstill, as a rule, is allowed within four miles of another, and sometimes the minimum distance is greater, and increased duties have been levied on opium and on ganja. The number of shops and outstills which it is proposed to license during the following year in a district is now reported to the Board; and not only is supervision from head-quarters thus rendered more direct, but the attention of Collectors and Commissioners is forcibly drawn to the subject.

42. Two years ago, on my recommendation, Sir G. Campbell introduced two Acts into the Bengal Council, which allowed of shops being put up to auction in places under the sudder distillery system. This plan was borrowed from the North-Western Provinces. Formerly, monthly fees ranging from one to twenty rupees per shop were levied. Now 32 shops in Calcutta pay a monthly license fee of over Rs. 200, and 28 shops a fee of between Rs. 100 and 200. The auction system enables Government to obtain a share of the larger profit made at the shop where the sales are greatest. The result of this new plan of granting licenses has been to reduce in Calcutta the number of retail shops as follows:—

	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
Retail liquor shops	260	188	193
Ganja retail "	133	114	103
Opium " "	212	126	112

48. The revenue during the same period obtained from these two articles has been—

YEAR	Ganja Rs.	Opium. Rs.
1867-68	9,73,176	21,26,933
1868-69	9,68,010	20,94,117
1869-70	9,98,128	20,29,207
1870-71	11,06,818	20,35,913
1871-72	11,40,329	20,82,864
1872-73	11,89,705	21,99,180
1873-74	11,76,884	23,29,827

49. The results may be thus briefly stated: Ganja, diminished consumption, and an increased revenue of Rs. 2,03,708; Opium, consumption stationary, and an increased revenue of Rs. 2,02,894.

50. Both articles are probably susceptible of still higher rates of duty. As regards ganja, it is under consideration whether it would not be preferable to make the wholesale purchaser pay the duty when he buys the article in Rajshahye, freeing him from all restrictions afterwards. At present the wholesale purchaser merely pays the cultivator for the plant; he then carries it to his own district and gola, where it is placed under the joint custody of himself and an abkaree darogah, and the duty is paid by the retail seller on each lot as he buys it from the goladar.

51. I now come to the remedies proposed by the petitioners to check the increase of drunkenness.

52. Nos. 1 and 2 have been and are attended to.

53. Nos. 3 and 4 are exactly the same checks as proposed in the Permissive Bill which the Temperance Party have tried to introduce in England. They are not, in my opinion, practicable. There would be great difficulty in obtaining the opinions of residents or rate-payers, and it is questionable how far it would be right to set up such a tyranny of majorities. The fact that 600 men in a village prefer to drink water is no sufficient reason for debarring the remaining 200 from obtaining some other drink, if they wish it. At the same time I quite admit that the establishment of a liquor shop in a quiet and respectable locality may be a nuisance to the residents which would form a fair ground of complaint, and from which, like from any other nuisance, they would have a claim to be freed. This is a question of police administration rather than of excise, and as the police can prevent the opening of any shop, or the renewal of any license, the evil where it exists has already a remedy. I may add that I have myself forbidden the opening of a shop where I found there was a strong feeling against it among the residents.

54. An objection of the same kind exists against the adoption of remedy No. 5. Municipalities in India are not representative. This rule would often be the establishment of the tyranny, not of the majority, but of a small minority.

55. I am not myself in favor of an alteration of the present system for granting licenses; but if a change were made, I would rather see it in the direction of Local Licensing Boards. The idea was mooted as regards England by Mr. Arthur Arnold in the April number of the *Fortnightly Review*, 1872. Such a Board might consist of Collector, Superintendent of Police, and four or five influential men in the district, especially natives.

56. No. 6 has been carried out, and is the subject of constant care.

57. No. 7 would be to force a man who wanted a glass of liquor to buy a bottle, and would deprive a traveller or workman of the refreshment he required.

58. No. 8 would turn every liquor shop into a sort of Black Hole, where in the hot weather the unfortunate abkar and his customers would run the risk of death from heat apoplexy.

59. There seems no good reason for adopting No. 9. Government has no right to insist upon every man getting through his drink before sunset any more than through his food. As a matter of police, liquor shops should be shut when quiet and respectable people want to go to sleep, and that is now the rule.

60. No. 10 I agree with, as far as it can be carried out with due regard to the wants of the inhabitants of such quarters.

61. No. 11 is directed against an evil which does not exist.

62. No. 12 touches a real evil which I have long been aware of; but I wish the petitioners, while pointing it out, had given their views as to the best mode of meeting it. The only remedy I can suggest is the passing of a law similar to one which, in 1867, was pressed upon the attention of the Legislature of Massachusetts in the United States. Whether this proposed Act was ever enacted or not in Massachusetts I have no means of knowing. It is copied in the appendix to this Minute.

63. No. 13 I do not understand.

64. No. 14 is attended to as far as is necessary. Each case must be decided on its merits. A universal rule like that suggested would often be productive of injustice and hardship.

65. I am not in favour of No. 15. It is true the police do not help the Excise Department much, but a special abkaree staff would consist of men generally of a lower class than the men in the police, and would probably be of very little more use. They would be bribed to blindness even more easily than the police, and would not repay by their additional service their cost to the State.

66. The fact is that in excise, as in most matters of administration, there is no short and royal road to what is best. Everything must depend on care and on thoughtful adaptation of varying means to ever-changing evils and dangers.

67. The alterations in the existing laws which I would recommend are few. They are embodied in the appendix to this Minute, and have already been urged (most of them) upon the consideration of Government.

68. My own idea of the best form of excise generally for Bengal is the sudder distillery system in towns and the outstill system in the interior, with strict precautions against the tendency of the latter to multiply outstills in the interior, and against the tendency of the former to increase shops in towns. I would raise the duty on imported spirits, and keep on raising it gradually, but by small increases, on ganja and opium.

69. It is, however, mere foolishness to expect that a certain proportion of the people of this country will not continue to use stimulants, or that the excise revenue will not increase. As the upper classes adopt more and more European habits, we must expect to see them take the bad with the good, and probably at first even more of the bad than of the good; while as the position of the lower classes improves, as agricultural produce yields a better price to the cultivator, and yearly the number increases of men, women, and children who earn a livelihood, such as they never dreamt of, in mills and factories, there will be a larger consumption of everything the mass of the people care for. They will wear more clothes, they will eat more food, and they will drink more liquor. Any attempt to enforce sobriety in a country where illicit distillation is so easy and so difficult of detection would be a failure. All we can do is to limit ourselves to supplying the demand, and not to create it, to open no new shops except on proof that they are required to meet an existing want, and to act on an honest recognition of the truth that the excise revenue is a very small matter in comparison with the comfort and well-being of the people.

70. I believe that generally throughout the country Revenue officers more or less are actuated now by these motives, and it is on this principle that the Board attempt to conduct the abkaree administration.

A. MONEY.

The 25th January 1875.

APPENDIX No. I.

An act to authorize Druggists and Apothecaries to sell Spirituous Liquors.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

Section 1. Druggists and Apothecaries may sell alcohol, spirits and wines for medicinal purposes only, provided that they shall keep a book in which they shall enter the date and quantity of every sale, the name and residence of the purchaser, and, if exported, the place to which exported, and the name of the consignee; which book shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Mayor and Aldermen and selectmen, or of any State constable.

If a Druggist or Apothecary, or any Clerk or Agent of a Druggist or Apothecary, is convicted of an illegal sale, he shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in section thirty of chapter eighty-six of the General Statutes.

Section 2. Section twenty-six of chapter eighty-six of the General Statutes is hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

APPENDIX No. II.

Proposed alterations and amendments of the Excise Laws, Act XI of 1849, Act XXI of 1856, Act XXIII of 1860, Act IV of 1866 (B.C.).

1. To introduce a provision into Act XI of 1849, requiring wholesale dealers in spirituous wines in liquors in Calcutta to take out licenses, and so to place them in the same position as similar wholesale dealers in the mofussil.
Board to Government, No. 120 B, dated 16th March 1872.
2. To amend section 20 of Act XI of 1849, in such a manner as to allow of search being made at night under certain conditions as would guarantee against abuse,—as, for instance, that a police officer, not under the grade of a Sub-Inspector, should accompany the searching party.
Board to Government, No. 859 B, dated 29th December 1874.
3. To provide a penalty for the illicit manufacture in Calcutta of any spirituous or fermented liquor or intoxicating drug, and also to provide for search by abkaree officers of premises in which illicit manufacture may be reasonably suspected to be taking place.
Board to Government, No. 120 B, dated 16th March 1872.
4. To substitute the following for the opening words of section 40, Act IV of 1866 (B.C.)—"Any person committing a breach of any of the conditions upon which a license is granted under the terms of section 36 or section 39 of this Act shall be summarily convicted," &c., &c.

3. For section 16 of the said Act XI of 1849, the following section shall be substituted:—

“16.—Besides the penalties above specified for the illicit manufacture, sale, possession and carrying of spirituous or fermented liquors or intoxicating drugs, all the materials and implements used, or intended to be used, in the manufacture, and all the liquors or drugs so manufactured, and all such liquors and drugs found in the possession of any offender against this Act, shall be seized and confiscated; and the vessels, packages and coverings, in which such liquors and drugs are found, and the animals and conveyances used in carrying them, shall also be liable to seizure and confiscation.”

4. For section 20 of the said Act XI of 1849, the following section shall be substituted:—

“20.—Whenever the Collector has good reason to believe, either from information given by any person, to be taken down in writing, or from his own knowledge, or from the proceedings in any case, that spirituous or fermented liquors or intoxicating drugs are being unlawfully manufactured or sold in any place, or that any spirituous or fermented liquors or intoxicating drugs, liable to confiscation under this Act, are kept or concealed in any place, the Collector may, by warrant under his hand, empower any Abkaree officer above the rank of jemadar of peons, but always in the presence of an officer of Police not being under the grade of a head constable, to enter into any such place, by day or by night, and to seize and carry away all such liquors or drugs, and all the implements or materials used in the manufacture thereof, and in case of resistance, to break open any door, and to force and remove any other obstacle to such entry, search, seizure or removal as aforesaid, and to arrest and detain the owner or occupier of the premises, with all parties whom he suspects to be concerned in the unlawful manufacture or sale, or in the unlawfully keeping or concealing of such liquors or drugs, whom he shall find on the premises:

Provided that, where there is ground to suspect that such liquors or drugs are unlawfully concealed in any zenana, the officer charged with the execution of the warrant shall follow, as closely as may be, the rules for the seizure of property so concealed adopted by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William.

5. The powers of seizure, search, and arrest given to Abkaree officers by sections 19 and 20 of the said Act XI of 1849, shall also be exercised by such Police officers who may be specially selected by the Commissioner of Police for such purpose; and the powers which are conferred upon the Collector by section 20 of the said Act, as regards the issue of warrants directed to Abkaree officers, shall also be vested in the Magistrate of Police, in respect of the issue of warrants directed to Police officers, selected in the manner aforesaid; provided that under the said section 20 it shall not be competent to the Collector to issue a warrant directed to a Police officer, nor shall it be competent to the Magistrate of Police to issue a warrant directed to an Abkaree officer.

6. Whenever any Police officer, exercising the powers of an Abkaree officer under sections 19 or 20 of the said Act XI of 1849, shall arrest any person, or shall seize any spirituous or fermented liquors or intoxicating drugs, or shall enter any place for the purpose of searching for such illicit articles, he shall carry the person arrested, with the illicit articles seized, with all convenient despatch, to the Magistrate of Police, and shall within twenty-four hours thereafter, make a full report to the Commissioner of Police, and the Commissioner shall at once inform the Collector of the fact of the arrest, and of the circumstances of the case; and the Magistrate of Police shall proceed to adjudicate the case according to law.

7. It shall not be lawful for any person to cultivate plants, from which intoxicating drugs are produced, without a license from the Collector; and any person who shall so cultivate, or in any way cause, encourage, or promote such illegal cultivation, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees; and the plant so cultivated shall be liable to seizure and confiscation.

8. For section 33 of the said Act XXI of 1856, the following section shall be substituted:—

“33.—The Board of Revenue may, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, from time to time prescribe rules consistent with this Act, for regulating the mode in which fermented liquors shall be supplied to licensed vendors of the same; for subjecting the cultivation of plants from which intoxicating drugs are produced, and the preparation of the said drugs, to such restrictions and supervision as may be deemed necessary to secure the duty leviable thereon;

and for granting licenses or passes to persons cultivating, preparing, storing, possessing, purchasing, or transporting the said plants or drugs.

Effect of rules.

All such rules shall be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and shall have effect as if they were contained in this Act.

Every person who wilfully or negligently refuses, or neglects to obey, or contravenes any rule issued and sanctioned under the provisions of this section, shall be punished with fine, which may extend to two hundred rupees."

Penalty.

9. For section 50 of the said Act XXI of 1856, the following section shall be substituted:—

Provisions of the two last preceding sections not to apply to the sale or possession of taree used in making sugar; not to the sale or possession of intoxicating drugs by licensed cultivators.

"50.—The provisions of the two last preceding sections, so far as they relate to the sale and possession of fermented liquors, do not apply to the sale and possession of taree, the produce of the date tree, when supplied or used for the manufacture of goor or molasses;

and the provisions of the said sections relating to the sale and possession of intoxicating drugs, do not apply to the sale or possession of such drugs by any person duly authorized under this Act to cultivate the plants which produce these drugs:

provided that every such cultivator selling or parting with any such plant, or any preparation made therefrom, to any person other than

Penalty for sale or transfer by cultivators to unlicensed person, or for failure to account for stock of plant had in possession.

a licensed vendor, or to a person duly authorized to purchase the same by pass or license from the Collector, or failing to account for any quantity of such plant, or of any preparation thereof which shall have been in his

possession, shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees."

Provisions relating to puchwai applicable to fermented liquors not mentioned in the Act.

10. All the provisions of the said Act XXI of 1856, which relate to puchwai, shall apply to any fermented liquor other than those specified in the said Act.

11. In section 40 of Act IV (B.C.) of 1866, the following section shall be substituted:—

"Any person committing a breach of any of the conditions upon which a license is granted under the terms of section 36 or section 39 of this Act, shall on summary conviction before a Magistrate, be punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees, and such fine shall be recovered from the person licensed, notwithstanding that such breach may have been owing to the default or carelessness of the servant or other person in charge of the shop or place of sale. Any person so convicted shall also be liable to the forfeiture of his license, at the discretion of the Commissioner of Police, subject to the direction and control of the said Lieutenant-Governor."

Penalty for breach of conditions of license.

12. Chemists, druggists and apothecaries, not being licensed vendors, may sell spirituous and fermented liquors and intoxicating drugs for medicinal purposes only:

Chemists, &c., may sell without license for medicinal purposes only.

Provided that, unless specially exempted by the Board of Revenue from the application of this proviso, they shall keep a register, in such form as the Board of Revenue may prescribe, in which they shall enter the date and quantity of every sale, and the name and residence of the purchaser; which register shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Collector, or any Excise officer above the rank of jemadar who may be deputed by the Collector for the purpose of such inspection. Every person bound by the above provision who shall neglect to keep

Penalty.

such register, or to enter in it any sale made by him, or who shall refuse on demand to produce such register for the inspection of the Collector, or the Excise officer duly authorized to inspect it, shall for every such offence be liable to a fine of two hundred rupees.

13. Any chemist, druggist or apothecary who may be convicted of making an unlawful sale of spirituous or fermented liquors or intoxicating drugs, shall for every such offence forfeit a sum which shall not be less than one hundred rupees or greater than five hundred rupees, in addition to the penalties provided for such offence in the said Act XI of 1849, or the said Act XXI of 1856.

Penalty for unlawful sale by chemists, &c.

14. When any person is sentenced to pay any fine or forfeiture under the said Act XI of 1849, or the said Act XXI of 1856, or under this Act, the Magistrate shall be guided by the provisions of sections 67, 68, and 69 of the Indian Penal Code, in awarding a period of imprisonment in default of payment thereof.

Imprisonment in default of payment of fine.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Member-in-charge in thinking that it would be impracticable to introduce into Bengal any measure which should make the existence of a shop in a given locality dependent upon the votes of a certain proportion of the residents or rate-payers. The question has for some years been much discussed in England, and those who advocate such interference have failed to show it to be either beneficial or justifiable. And independently of this consideration, the Lieutenant-Governor feels that it would be extremely difficult to obtain a real expression of the opinion of residents or rate-payers on the subject. The same objections apply to the proposal to transfer the power of granting licenses from Collectors to Municipalities. The power must, His Honor thinks for the present at least, remain with the Revenue authorities, and he feels confident that those authorities will exercise a judicious discretion in the matter.

7. The limitation of the number of shops generally throughout the country is already the subject of continual and watchful care. The imposition of higher rates of license fees is in itself calculated to diminish the number of shops, and it is now the practice to fix at the beginning of each year a maximum number of shops for each district, which is not under any circumstances to be exceeded. In districts in which the monthly-tax system prevails, no outstill is allowed within four miles of another. It is clear that restrictions of this kind cannot be carried beyond certain limits. A demand exists which will be met by the opening of illicit sources of supply if the establishment of licensed shops is prohibited. In determining the number of shops, as in the regulation of the amount of duty and license fees, it must be our object to do nothing which will stimulate the demand, and to contract the supply in such a manner as to check consumption without affording an irresistible temptation to evasion or violation of the law. The Lieutenant-Governor observes with satisfaction that the returns of the past year show a considerable decrease in the number of shops in the majority of districts, and especially in Calcutta, and he trusts to the vigilance of the Member-in-charge to maintain these necessary restrictions.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor is not prepared to enforce a rule prohibiting all consumption of liquor on the shop-keeper's premises, nor to provide that no shop shall have either door or window except in front on the road side. The former of these proposals would not, he thinks, promote the cause of temperance, for the effect of it would be that the man who wanted a glass of liquor would be compelled to buy a bottle. In some of the memorials which have been presented to Government, it has been urged that back-doors and windows afford facilities for smuggling out liquor at prohibited hours. This, however, is a matter of police administration rather than of excise, as the existing rule would be sufficient if it were properly enforced. And though the suggestion of the memorialists, if it were adopted, would make the enforcement of the rule more easy, it would do so at the cost of an amount of public inconvenience altogether disproportionate to the benefit derived from it, and it would bear with equal harshness upon those shop-keepers who now observe the law, and upon those who now violate it. It is not asserted that these irregular practices are universal,—it is not probable that they are even general; but the regulation which the memorialists desire to enforce would apply to all shop-keepers alike, and the Lieutenant-Governor is therefore unable to assent to it.

9. With regard to the other remedies proposed by the memorialists, and noticed in the 3rd paragraph of the Minute, I am directed to express the concurrence of the Lieutenant-Governor in the remarks of the Member-in-charge. There appear satisfactory reasons against the promulgation of a rule requiring all shops to be closed at sunset, and the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the employment of a special staff of excise police would serve no useful end which could not equally be attained by the employment of the existing police force. It is however important, His Honor thinks, that the police should be encouraged to co-operate to the utmost in the enforcement of the excise laws and regulations, and any police officer who shows marked activity and success in this department of his duties should be noticed for promotion and reward.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor has taken note of the remark of the Member-in-charge, that the sale at dispensaries of alcoholic liquor under the guise of medicine is an evil which requires to be checked by stringent regulations. Sir Richard Temple fears that there is good ground for the complaints made regarding the existence of this abuse, and that the facilities for obtaining intoxicating drinks in this manner serve to throw temptations in the way of many who would be restrained by a feeling of self-respect from resorting to shops which are avowedly open for the sale of liquors. The repression of this traffic is a matter of considerable difficulty; but the most effectual means appears to be the enactment of a provision for keeping a register of all such sales, in which the names and addresses of the purchasers shall be entered. Sections providing for this have accordingly been introduced in the draft Bill submitted to the Government of India.

11. In conclusion, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor desires that the earnest and unremitting vigilance of the Member-in-charge and of all Revenue Officers of Government may be exercised in the supervision of this department of the administration. The Minute which the Member-in-charge has submitted indicates, in His Honor's opinion, the true principles upon which our policy in this matter should be founded, and it is only necessary to maintain a careful attention to these principles in all the details of excise management.

(Sd.) H. J. REYNOLDS.

and to win their way in life which animates them all, I cannot but hope that those who have yielded, or are inclined to yield to this temptation, will eschew their dreadful error before it is too late, and will return to the principles of that sobriety which is honourably characteristic of their nation generally.

15. I apprehend that it is the contemplation of this intemperance among a limited section of the people under their immediate observation which has induced the memorialists to generalise (as I think) too much, and to fear that the extent of the evil is much wider than it really is.

16. I append to this Minute copies of the instructions given to the Board of Revenue on the receipt of Mr. Money's report, and a draft of the Bill which he has prepared for submission to the legislature in accordance with his several suggestions which have been approved by the Government of Bengal.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

No. 5.

Dated Calcutta, the 20th March 1873.

TO HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

The humble petition of REVD. JOHN D. DON and 26 others, Members of the Calcutta Missionary Conference.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—

THAT, in the opinion of your petitioners, drunkenness and the immoderate use of liquor is increasing in this country, particularly among the Native community, to an alarming extent.

2. That the greater facilities afforded for the purchase of spirituous liquors and intoxicating drugs, by the increased number of vendors and the extension of time in the evening during which they may carry on their trade, have originated and encouraged much drunkenness.

3. That whatever may be the published opinions of certain Government officers and others, as to the advantage and even harmlessness of using intoxicating drinks and drugs, your petitioners view with satisfaction your Honor's recorded opinion, that "the increasing use of stimulants throughout the country, and more especially among the better educated classes, is a thing to be deeply deplored," and that your Honor "is not prepared to admit that in this country there is any class of the peasantry to whom even a moderate use of stimulants is beneficial. But that however this may be, there can be no doubt that the growing use of European spirits among the upper classes, who lead a sedentary life, is purely injurious."

4. That the efforts now making by English statesmen to regulate and control the liquor traffic in the United Kingdom, and the discussions in Parliament and by the Press generally, may, in the judgment of your petitioners, assist your Honor in devising a wise and efficient measure for diminishing this fruitful source of vice and crime.

5. That, without presuming to suggest to your Honor which department of the Government executive should be entrusted with the weighty responsibility of granting or withholding licenses to sell intoxicating drinks and drugs, and without offering any opinion as to how far the provisions of any measures submitted to the legislature of other countries may be suitable to the requirements of Bengal, your petitioners, relying on your Honor's experience and judgment, humbly pray—

- (1)—That measures be taken to obtain an authoritative record of the opinions of representative men of various classes as to the extent to which drinking habits and drunkenness have increased in this country during the last ten or fifteen years.
- (2)—That if, as your petitioners regret to think will be the case, it be found that drunkenness is greatly increasing, your Honor will devise adequate means for discouraging and suppressing it.
- (3)—That, in any new law your Honor may see fit to originate, provisions be made that no shop for selling liquor or intoxicating drugs be licensed if objected to by two-thirds of the householders or residents in the neighbourhood; that the protest of two-thirds of such householders against any existing liquor or drug shop may ensure its removal; and that it be illegal to sell intoxicating drugs or liquors before sunrise or after sunset.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

No. 6.

Dated Calcutta, the 9th December 1873.

TO HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

The humble memorial of KOONJO LALL BANERJEE, President, and PEARY CHURN SIRCAR, Secretary, "Bengal Temperance Society"

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—

1. THAT your memorialists, encouraged by your Honor's earnest and strenuous endeavours to promote the welfare of this country, and emboldened by the expression of your Honor's intentions of amending the Abkaree laws with a view to repress the vice of drunkenness,

presumed to submit a memorial on the 1st March last, offering certain suggestions calculated to remedy some of the evils of the existing system.

2. But the proposed Bill along with which your Honor's Council intended to deliberate on the suggestions, not having yet been taken up, your memorialists beg leave most respectfully to solicit your Honor's attention to the subject.

3. The vice of intemperance is spreading so frightfully among the Native population, and some of the evils of the Abkaree system are so crying, that your memorialists trust the improvement of the Abkaree laws will receive an early consideration from your Honor's Government.

And your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Dated Fort William, the 20th March 1873.

Endorsed by the Govt. of Bengal, Judicial and Legislative Depts.

COPY forwarded to the Secretary to this Government in the Revenue Department for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of the Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of the Excise Department.

Dated Calcutta, the 18th March 1873.

From—BABOO PEARY CHURN SIRCAR, Secretary, Bengal Temperance Society,

To—The Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial and Legislative Departments.

AGREEABLY to a resolution adopted at a general meeting of the Bengal Temperance Society, held on the 17th instant in the Presidency College, I have the honor to forward the accompanying memorial, to be submitted to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the subject of the Bills now before the Council for the amendment of the Abkaree laws.

TO THE HON'BLE THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL IN COUNCIL.

The memorial of the Bengal Temperance Society.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—

THAT your memorialists view with alarm the progress of intemperance among the inhabitants of the territories under your Honor's government.

2. That your memorialists are convinced that the rapid spread of intemperance in this country is attributable to the temptations placed in the way of the people by the opening of liquor shops without any discrimination of locality or proper inquiry as to their necessity, and also to a desire among the higher classes of natives to imitate European habits and tastes.

3. That your memorialists believe that the adoption of drinking habits after the European fashion has been facilitated by the importation of low-priced spirits, and that the temptations in the way of the people have been multiplied, in a considerable degree, by the efforts of the excise officers to enhance the revenue, probably stimulated by the fact that Government has often publicly recorded its approbation of the conduct of such officers as have succeeded in enhancing the revenue.

4. That, though judging from the state of the liquor traffic in Europe the number of shops and the consumption of liquors in this country may not appear large, your memorialists beg to submit that, considering the well-known abstemious habits of the people of this country, the number of liquor shops that have come into existence within a short period is really alarming, especially in the great cities and commercial towns.

5. That, as the evil has not yet reached all classes of the population and all parts of the country, your memorialists are humbly of opinion that advantage should be taken of the facilities now existing to restrain its growth and prevent its extension.

6. That your memorialists therefore hail with joy the introduction of two Bills in your Honor's Council for the amendment of the Abkaree laws, and beg to tender their most grateful thanks for the action your Honor has taken in Council towards the repression of the growing evil.

7. That your memorialists are extremely anxious about the results of the deliberations of your Honor's Council, and trust that, under your able guidance, the Council will not hesitate, even at some sacrifice of revenue, to introduce such positive improvements in the Abkaree law as will materially promote the well-being of society.

8. That, under the foregoing circumstances, your memorialists beg leave to offer the following suggestions, which, if adopted, will, they are persuaded, remedy some of the more manifest evils of the present system:—

I.—That the number of liquor shops be limited, and their localities fixed and confined to the least objectionable parts, as far as practicable.

II.—That no liquor shops be allowed to exist in the vicinity of educational institutions or places of public worship.

III.—That no license be given or renewed for a shop at any place where two-thirds of the local ratepayers object to such traffic.

IV.—That liquor shops be erected on plans approved by Government with only one entrance, and that opening on the public street, and with such wired windows in the walls as will afford facilities for inspection from outside.

* "Every person licensed to sell spirituous or fermented liquors or intoxicating drugs, who shall permit drunkenness, riot, or gaming in his shop, or shall permit persons of notoriously bad character to meet or remain therein, or shall receive any wearing apparel or other effects in barter for liquor or drugs, shall forfeit for every such offence a sum not exceeding Rs. 200."

V.—That the legal restrictions already existing be strictly enforced; section 45 of Act XXI of 1856,* for instance, being daily violated with impunity.

VI.—That all liquor shops be closed at sunset, as was the case for several years in Calcutta.

VII.—That, as it is believed that intoxicating drinks are obtained from certain dispensaries during the hours of night, dispensaries be carefully looked into with a view to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquor except on *bonâ fide* medical prescription.

VIII.—That the sale of liquors in hotels or similar public places of entertainment be regulated, as far as practicable, so as not to defeat the objects of abkaree legislation.

IX.—That no licenses be renewed to shop-keepers who have been convicted of offences under the Abkaree laws.

X.—That officers of Government be strictly enjoined not to permit liquor shops to be opened merely for the sake of increasing the revenue.

XI.—That the rates of license fees, and the duties on country spirits, rum, and imported liquors and other intoxicating drinks, as well as on opium and other drugs, be raised so high as to afford the greatest possible discouragement to their use.

XII.—That a staff of efficient and reliable officers be especially maintained to watch the working of the Abkaree system, and to see to the strict enforcement of the abkaree laws.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

RAJA KALI KRISHNA BAHADOOR,
President.

PEARY CHURN SIRCAR,
Secretary.

CALCUTTA,
The 17th March 1873. }

No. 7.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

The humble memorial of RAJAH ROMANAUTH TAGORE, and 51 others, inhabitants of the Bengal Presidency.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—

That your memorialists contemplate with great anxiety and alarm the increased consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs by the native population of this country, and its frightful effects upon their health and morals.

That your memorialists deem it superfluous to describe the nature and extent of the evils inflicted on the country by intemperance. Besides vitiating the health, intellect, and character of thousands, desolating many a home, and impoverishing many a family, it has proved a prolific source of crime and immorality in their worst forms, and unchecked in time is calculated, more than anything else, to frustrate the efforts of all who are working for the welfare of the people.

That by far the most distinguishing characteristic of the people of this country, whether Hindoos or Mahomedans, has been their religious abstinence from intoxicating drinks. Long as the Hindoos have been under foreign sway and under rulers following hostile forms of religion, the vitality they have shown as a nation, with distinct institutions, customs, and traditions, is generally admitted to be remarkable, and this vitality, your memorialists venture to submit, has been not a little due to their immunity from the vices of intoxication. If they had not religiously fostered a habit of temperance, many of the domestic virtues which grace the Hindoo in the bosom of his family, and which contribute so much to his social happiness, would have disappeared.

That, although the bulk of the people of this country, whether Hindoos or Mahomedans, are still free from the vice of drunkenness, still the inroads, which this pernicious habit is steadily making among all classes of native society, are so terrible and rapid that, unless the Government takes timely and effective measures to arrest its progress, the evil will have reached a stage when it will be past remedy.

That, in the humble judgment of your memorialists, a stringent law and a strict execution thereof are needed to effectually repress the evil under notice. They are so thoroughly convinced of the pernicious consequences of intemperance upon the health, morals, and true well-being of a nation, that they would not have hesitated to urge a complete suppression of the trade in intoxicating drinks as has been done in some states of America could they but feel sure that the Government was prepared to interfere with the requirements of the European residents and surrender the large revenue derived from it. Nevertheless they would earnestly solicit your Excellency in Council to consider the propriety of so raising the duty on indigenous and imported spirits as to discourage the consumption of the same as much as possible; as to impress upon the people that the costliness of liquor was a proof of the disapprobation and disfavor with which the Government regarded its use; as to place it, if practicable, beyond the reach of those—and their number is legion—who live by the sweat of their brow, and through whom

this vice entails great misery upon thousands of innocent women and children that depend upon them for their livelihood.

That, although the duty on spirits, both indigenous and imported, has from time to time been increased, the consumption has by no means abated. Your memorialists are willing to admit that without the repressive action of the legislature the consumption of spirits would have gone on increasing in a much greater ratio than it has done; but, however benign the intentions of the legislature, the abkaree officers can scarcely be credited with a loyal zeal to give due effect to them. Ample facilities have, on the contrary, been given for the multiplication of shops; and thus where there were one or two shops before, five or ten have now sprung up; the excise officers have been practically taught to look to the increase in the number of shops and consequent increase of revenue for promotion, and those who have so distinguished themselves have not unfrequently been honored with favourable mention in the annual reports of superior authorities. The Police, it is admitted in the last annual report of the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police, are not unoften in league with the owners of liquor shops; and what is the case in the metropolis, is equally, if not in a greater degree, the case in the mofussil.

That the Government may by its own example effect much in promoting temperance. For instance, if there had been a rule to the effect that any Government servant who was convicted of drunkenness in a Magistrate's Court, or who might be guilty of breaking official discipline, or neglecting his legitimate work from indulgence in intoxicating drinks, would be visited with condign punishment, a healthy moral influence would have been exercised not only upon the native officers, for your memorialists speak of them only, but also upon the native community at large. What your memorialists deeply regret is that there is nothing in the laws, proceedings, or actions of the Government which shows that it views with disapprobation the habit rapidly growing among the native population of this country of indulging in intoxicating drinks.

That your memorialists equally deplore the increased consumption of ganja and opium. Writing about ganja, the Commissioner of Patna says that "nothing so soon touches the brain or is more harmful to the consumer. Our lunatic asylum shows how frequently patients enter whose aberration of intellect is wholly due to an undue indulgence of this harmful drug. It would be well if its use could be prohibited altogether." "I look on the consumption of ganja," the Commissioner of Dacca remarks, "as an unmitigated curse. It has no redeeming feature. It is a fertile source of crime most dangerous to public, and is more than any other the cause of admission to lunatic asylum. I should like to see every check placed on the growth, sale, and consumption of ganja, which would not lead to extensive smuggling." The following statement embracing seven years shows that, with the exception of the famine years, the consumption is steadily increasing:—

Period.	Flat.			Round.			Chor or Rora.			Total.		
	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.
1864-65 ...	7,730	32	8	1,267	25	4	49	28	0	9,048	5	12
1865-66 ...	7,221	13	14	1,472	5	0	68	15	7	8,762	14	5
1866-67 ...	6,357	14	0	1,101	27	7	44	4	10	7,563	6	1
1867-68 ...	7,811	6	4	1,347	38	9	38	17	1	9,927	21	14
1868-69 ...	7,857	2	1	1,258	35	9	26	0	8	9,141	38	2
1869-70 ...	8,127	29	11	4,231	21	13	7	5	4	9,366	16	2
1870-71 ...	8,963	21	2	1,412	1	6	18	8	3	10,393	30	11
Last year the consumption is ...												

Last year the consumption increased by 317 maunds 4 seers and 8 chittacks.

It is true that from April 1872 the duty has been increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8 per seer, but your memorialists take leave to doubt whether this slight increase will have any appreciable effect in consumption.

That the consumption of opium is also rapidly spreading through the country. The following statement shows the extent of increase:—

	Consumption.			Net Revenue.
	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.	
1851-52
1852-53	35,399
1853-54	26,266
1854-55	12,748
1855-56	36,576
1856-57	33,795
1857-58	51,723
1858-59	48,627
1859-60	47,470
1860-61	83,818
1861-62	2,14,973
1862-63	4,29,922
1863-64	5,13,681
1864-65	5,25,261
1865-66	8,14,003
1866-67	9,90,578
1867-68	9,99,810
1868-69	10,74,902
1869-70	10,25,064
1870-71	9,43,070
1871-72	9,27,191
	9,74,142

tion by the formidable temptations afforded by the liquor shops which abound in the land. These shops clearly tend to increase drunkenness, inasmuch as they tempt the people and afford facilities for drinking. In villages where fewer shops exist, and the ancient simplicity of the people has not yet been invaded by foreign influences, the vice is much less than in great cities and towns.

The effects of intemperance upon the health and morals of the people are indeed of the most appalling description. The use of intoxicating liquor is the bane of the country. The incalculable mischief it has wrought, physically and morally, proves it to be an unmitigated curse. It has been found to impair the health and deprave the character of thousands. The happiness of many a family has been embittered, and the tenderest and sweetest relations of domestic life have been outraged; wives and children have been left to starve—nay, more, the sin of the intemperate father has been visited on his emaciated and sickly offspring. To drunkenness may be traced

many of the worst types of disease which afflict the people, and under whose effects many alas! have been hurried into a premature death. Where it does not produce specific diseases of a grave character, it debilitates the constitution and enfeebles the nervous system; and it may justly be regarded as one of the chief causes of the degeneracy of the Bengalee race. That the habitual use of strong drinks more rapidly and effectively undermines the constitution in a tropical country than elsewhere is generally admitted, and does not admit of doubt or controversy. When along with this we take into consideration the fact that, excepting the lower classes, the natives of India generally are not accustomed to drink from early life like European nations, we can easily understand why they so readily succumb to the influence of a new temptation, and why the ravages of intemperance in this land are so destructive and fatal. During the last decade some twenty of the ablest and most useful members of native society have died of intemperance, leaving behind them the influence of their

corrupt examples. Crime and immorality are also in a large measure attributable to this cause. The instances of petty crimes and heinous offences committed under the influence of drink are of frequent occurrence, as may be proved by the criminal records of the country. But far more numerous and serious are the cases of those who have wrecked their character and sunk into the lowest depths of depravity, dragging a large circle of associates and neighbours into the vortex of their contagious influence. Such instances of vice and immorality seldom fall within the range of public observation; they only draw forth the wife's secret tears, rend the father's heart with deep anguish, and excite the patriot's gravest anxiety. It is indeed harrowing and painful to contemplate the extent to which sensuality, profligacy, and brutal revels on the one hand, and irreligion, blasphemy, and practical atheism on the other, are making ravages among all classes of the Native community in consequence of the spread of drunkenness, and undermining the religious and moral life of the nation. What has specially excited alarm in the minds of many is the fact that the vice is no longer confined to persons of mature age, but has recently begun to affect the young also. Even boys of 15 and 16 years of age are found to indulge in the

excesses of drinking. Nor is it possible to overrate the amount of destitution and pauperism caused by drunkenness. How many families that have been ruined and reduced to penury, how many helpless widows and starving orphans, can trace their misery to the intemperance and improvidence of those on whom they depended! Of the pauper population hanging on public charity a great many are victims of drunkenness. Indigence increases as men's resources and means fall into the hands of publicans. In short, the use of intoxicating liquor has done more than anything else to degrade the physical, moral, and social condition of my countrymen, and has proved a stupendous obstacle in the path of reformation. Patriots and philanthropists of all classes, who are engaged in diverse ways in ameliorating the condition of the people, always complain that this great evil seriously counteracts and frustrates their efforts. The following unimpeachable testimony to the evil effects of drink in England applies with equal or even greater force to this country: "No evil more nearly affects our national life and character; and therefore no question more immediately demands the zeal of our clergy, the attention of our statesmen, the action of our Legislature, and the thoughtful aid of our philanthropists. Nor can any sacrifice be esteemed too costly, or any efforts too great, to check and remedy what may be shewn by accumulated and undeniable evidence to be sapping the foundations of our prosperity, blighting the future, and lowering the reputation of our country, and destroying at once its physical strength and its moral and religious life."—[Convocation Report on Intemperance.]

It is evidently the duty of Government to adopt stringent measures for the suppression of this great evil. However active benevolent societies and individuals may be in their efforts to prevent and remedy it by moral suasion and the influence of public opinion, nothing but the strong hand of the law can fully cope with so formidable a vice. The avowed object of the excise administration is to meet a public want without detriment to the public weal; and the means employed are said to be such as are calculated to increase revenue without increasing by State agency the consumption of liquor. Experience, however, has proved otherwise. Far from checking, the Excise Department has rather facilitated the spread of drunkenness by multiplying liquor shops. Any attempt to verify this charge must be superfluous when Mr. Money, the head of the Department, himself distinctly admits (*vide* Report for 1870-71, paragraph 242) that "it has always been a blot on our abkaree system that it brought temptation undesirably close to every man's

door." The Lieutenant-Governor also fully agrees with Mr. Money as regards "the necessity for putting some check upon the number of spirit shops, in the interests both of the revenue and of public morality." His Honor fears that the "Board's old maxim has been occasionally overlooked, that the excise administration should aim not at an increase of revenue alone, but at an increase of revenue combined with the greatest possible discouragement to consumption." It clearly follows from such official and weighty testimonies that the abkaree system is not what it ought to be, that it has failed to impose sufficient restrictions upon the sale and consumption of intoxicants, and that it ought to be so reformed as to cause a reduction in the number of liquor shops in the country.

The history of excise administration in the Lower Provinces shews a decided increase both in the revenue derived from liquor and the number of licenses issued. This remark applies to country spirits as well as foreign wines and spirits, as will appear from the subjoined figures:—

		No. of licenses.	License fees.	Duty.	Total revenue.
Country spirits ... {	1867-68	4,459	1,59,219	10,50,665	12,73,383
	1871-72	7,213	3,29,573	15,29,195	19,81,468
Foreign wines, &c. ... {	1867-68	737	58,243	9,85,543	10,43,786
	1871-72	956	70,705	10,53,400	11,24,105

The excise reports also shew a considerable increase in the consumption of imported spirits, which are extensively used by the higher classes in preference to country spirits, and may, it is said, "at no very distant date entirely supplant the latter." The quantity of foreign spirits imported in 1871-72 was 258,154 gallons against 187,194 in 1866-67. The importation of brandy has increased to a fearful extent. The total value of brandy imported in 1860-61 was Rs. 7,34,411, exclusive of customs duty; it rose to Rs. 17,71,816 in 1870-71.

There cannot then be any doubt that the traffic in liquor is increasing, and that alcoholic drinks are not sufficiently high priced to prevent extensive consumption. Where liquor finds such rapid and large sale and is a profitable concern, there must be the strongest inducement to multiply liquor shops. In order then to put an effective check upon the multiplication of shops and the increasing consumption of liquor, it is indispensably necessary to render the liquor traffic far less profitable and remunerative than it now is. This object would be best achieved by enhancing the duty on liquor, both country made and foreign, and by imposing higher rates of license fees. The present rates of duty and license admit of considerable enhancement, and should, I think, be doubled. The vendors have no right to complain, as their trade is remunerative and thriving. Nor can Government object to the proposal, as it only aims at a further extension of the principle which the Excise Department has always professed to follow, that the maximum amount of revenue should be raised from the minimum quantity consumed. So far as imported spirits are concerned, the Board admits the necessity of increasing the present duty. Mr. Money distinctly says he has "no doubt that foreign spirits would bear an additional duty;" and some of the excise officers have gone so far as to recommend that the duty should be raised from Rs. 3 to 5 a gallon. It is generally admitted that foreign spirits have produced the most deleterious and demoralizing effect on the natives of this country, while it is evident that their supply has never followed any real demand. The supply has created a demand. Before the English came into this country, the natives had no idea whatever of British and other foreign spirits, and cannot be supposed to have felt their want before they had a taste for them. The more these stimulants have been imported into the country and used, the greater has been the demand; and now, as the demand increases, the supply keeps pace with it. The use of such liquors in centres of population is said to be increasing with alarming rapidity among the higher classes of the native population. The Collector of Dacca says:—"When I first joined this district there were no shops for the retail of such liquors in the mofussil, and only two or three in Dacca. Now there are eight in the mofussil, and twenty-eight in Dacca. There has been with this a decided increase in the consumption of spirits, for many a man drinks brandy or rum who has never touched the country spirits. The effect on the people is bad, but I see no means of stopping it." In such circumstances it is absolutely necessary to check the consumption of liquor of all kinds, and of brandy and other ardent spirits in particular, by an enhancement of duty and license fees. As this might indirectly tend to increase the use of ganja and other noxious drugs which are already devastating the country, the duty on intoxicating drugs of all kinds should also be considerably raised.

A more stringent system of licensing ought to be adopted than obtains at present. Under the present system Government officers have the entire authority of granting licenses, and no power of control is vested in the people. And yet it is these latter who are most interested in the question and most affected by its issues. It is desirable therefore that their wishes should be consulted before licenses are granted or renewed. It would be only justice to recognise their right in the matter, while the control they would exercise would prove highly beneficial. An unnecessary multiplication of liquor shops would be thereby avoided, their establishment in objectionable localities would be prevented, and lastly, the supply of liquor would be restricted within the limits of actual demand. In order to effect the object in view, it ought to be ruled that no new license shall be issued by the licensing authorities, unless the applicant can produce a petition in its favor signed by two-thirds of the rate-payers of the locality where the shop is intended to be opened. It would also vastly conduce to the same end if the power of granting and renewing licenses were transferred from the Collector to Municipalities, where such bodies exist.

There ought to be a considerable reduction in the number of liquor shops throughout the country. It will be found on enquiry that in some places, especially in great cities, there are too many shops at present. Reduction in the number of shops. They are out of all proportion to the number of inhabitants in the neighbourhood, and clearly exceed the local demand. Those which are situated within a mile of others should be closed. Shops existing in objectionable localities,—in the vicinity of schools, public libraries, religious institutions, and places of business,—ought also to be suppressed. Besides a general reduction should be effected by restricting the number of shops in each city, town and village according to area, population and the actual extent of local demand. This may be done by the highest local officer of Government, in consultation with the leading members of the Native and European communities in the place. Such restrictions will exculpate the Government from the charge of bringing “temptation undesirably close to every man’s door,” and prove an incalculable blessing to the country by removing some at least of the sources of crime and misery. The Bombay Government has lately resolved to reduce the number of shops in the Island from 660 to 490.

Retail shops are generally found to possess back-doors, through which liquor is clandestinely sold at prohibited hours. Such practices have often been detected and punished, but they are far from being at an end; Prohibition of clandestine sale. and there seems to be no likelihood of effectually preventing their recurrence so long as back-doors are permitted to exist. The Legislature ought to provide that shops for the vend of liquor should have no doors or windows except on the roadside.

Considerable mischief is occasioned by vendors allowing persons to become intoxicated on their premises. It not only leads to disturbance, disorderly conduct, and indecency in the streets, which prove a nuisance to the people of the neighbourhood, but it enables the vendors to utterly ruin their customers by supplying as much liquor to them in their intoxicated state as they may feel a craving for. It is evidently the interest of the publican to entice men to get drunk and then to supply them with more liquor. The practice is indeed most ruinous and dangerous, and ought to be put down. Licensed vendors should be strictly prohibited from allowing any person to drink on their premises, and also from selling liquor to those who are already intoxicated. Severe penalties ought to be inflicted on those who violate such rules. Prohibition of drinking on the premises.

Liquor shops should not be kept open till late hours, as at present. There is more drunkenness and more opportunity of indulging in its excesses at night than during the day. If therefore the shops were closed earlier, Earlier closing of shops. it would undoubtedly be the means of greatly checking intemperance and its concomitant vices. It appears from the Excise Report for 1870-71 that there was an increase of 12,838 gallons in the consumption of country spirits in Calcutta in that year, owing to the “extension of the hour of sale from sunset to 9 p.m.” It is impossible to justify this extension of the time of sale in the face of the admitted increase of consumption; and no satisfactory reasons have, I believe, yet been assigned. The Government should compel the closing of all liquor shops at sunset, as was done in this city for some years with the best results.

The policy long followed by the Excise Department and the Local Government of praising subordinate officers for increasing the abkaree revenue is decidedly objectionable. It cannot fail to act as an indirect inducement to excise officers to promote the traffic in liquor in their respective districts by all means in their power. In their anxiety to please the superior authorities, and thereby ensure the prospects of promotion in the service, they are naturally too ready to exert the fullest influence of their official position and try in every way to increase the consumption of liquor. The enhancement of revenue becomes their sole object, and all other considerations are subordinated to it. So long as they can give effect to this object and raise the revenue, they are sure of receiving the cordial approval of the State, whatever may be the effect of their labours on the health and morals of the people. Such financial success seems to be the only merit in excise officers which is recognized and rewarded by Government, and no effort is made to enquire how far increased revenue may have been accompanied by increased consumption and the growth of disease, pauperism, and crime. This will be evident from the following remark which occurs in the Board’s Report for 1852-53:—“Under the precautions taken to ensure a continuance of the same efficient management which in the case of 15 districts has raised the revenue from a little more than 3 to nearly 5½ lakhs, it is hoped that these capabilities will not be neglected. In future reports the Board will not fail to mention prominently those officers who have given marked attention to this branch of their duties.” The promise has been carried out year after year, and numerous officers have accordingly been commended for the questionable merit of enhancing the revenue. Such a practice ought to be wholly discountenanced and discontinued. Those excise officers are clearly not entitled to praise who fail to reduce the consumption of liquor and check the spread of intemperance, and its consequent crime and immorality. Discontinuance of the practice of praising officers for increasing the revenue.

These, my Lord, are some of the best means of remedying the evils of that pernicious system of liquor traffic which prevails in Bengal, and more or less in other parts of British India. In laying my humble suggestion before your Excellency, I am fully aware that by adopting them the Government will have to forego a portion of its excise revenue. But the

incalculable moral blessings which will accrue to the nation will more than compensate for such a loss; and even financially considered the loss will not prove so great as is generally imagined, as the improvement in the health and morals of the people will effect a perceptible diminution in disease and crime, and a proportionate saving in the charges of hospitals, lunatic asylums, jails, and police courts. The time, I believe, has come when the whole subject of excise administration, in this and other presidencies, ought to be carefully examined in all its bearings, financial and ethical, with the view of removing the stigma which attaches to the British Government of deliberately teaching the natives of India to drink by besetting them on every side with temptations. The great success which has attended the noble and long-continued efforts of the advocates of temperance in England, in influencing public opinion and securing valuable concessions from Parliament, encourages me to hope that a Government, swayed by your Lordship's enlightened statesmanship and warm philanthropy, will readily concede the principle of the Permissive Bill to a country where the sober habits of the people render the present system of liquor traffic morally and politically inexcusable, and the application of legislative remedies to wrongs committed by the State itself through the remissness and inefficiency of the Excise Department all the more imperative. If nothing is done now to stay the ravages of this great social vice, it will steadily grow and extend on all side, and eventually assume all the strength and solidity of a confirmed national habit: to eradicate it then will be a work of hopeless difficulty. Now is the time when philanthropists, statesmen, and legislators should unite their best efforts and adopt immediate steps for repressing the growing evil. In the interests of thousands and tens of thousands of my countrymen, here and in other parts of India, I humbly pray that your Lordship in Council will be pleased to take into favourable consideration a subject which vitally affects the social and moral interests of the people, and adopt such legislative and administrative measure as may save our country from a prolific source of disease, destitution and crime.

TESTIMONIES OF EUROPEAN AND NATIVE GENTLEMEN.

THE vice of drunkenness has now become so prevalent among the inhabitants of the Bengal Provinces, and is the immediate cause of so much poverty, suffering, disease and crime, that it is the manifest duty of Government to direct special attention thereto, with the view of adopting measures not only to check the spread, but to dry up some at least of the sources of this social curse.—[Memorial to the Hon'ble Cecil Beadon, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, presented on the 22nd March 1866].

Raja Kalikrishna Bahadoor.
 „ Komul Krishna.
 Maharani Sharnamayi.
 Babu Romanath Tagore.
 „ Joteendro Mohun Tagore.
 „ Degumber Mitter.
 Pundit Iswara Chundra Vydiasagor.
 Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter.

Baboo Unnoda Prosad Banerjee.
 Moulvie Abdool Lutef Khan.
 W. S. Atkinson, Esq.
 H. Woodrow, Esq.
 J. Sutcliffe, Esq.
 Rev. J. Barton.
 „ James Long.

Drunkenness has within the last forty years increased enormously amongst our countrymen, especially in the middle and upper classes, so much so that the indulgence in alcoholic drinks, which at that time was considered an act sufficiently culpable to excommunicate one from the pale of the higher classes of Hindoo society, has now become, I might say, almost the fashion of the day. Our religion strongly forbids the drinking of wine. Our legislators have wisely put the strongest restrictions against its use, and reckoned it as one of the greatest of sins. The Mahomedans equally condemn it, and I confidently believe that our countrymen of all persuasions would rejoice to see the suppression of this evil.—*Rai Rajendro Mullick Bahadoor.*

Drunkenness has certainly increased in this country, and that chiefly among the educated classes of the native community. The consumption of wines and spirits imported from Great Britain has increased largely, and this increased consumption is asserted to be confined chiefly to the educated classes. The alkaree system and the exertion of alkaree officers have multiplied temptations so as greatly to extend the use of intoxicating liquors and drugs.—*Peary Churn Sircar.*

In travelling through the country I have heard and learnt and seen with deep sorrow and regret that intemperance is widely spread, and I fear increasing, among the natives of this land. Evidence, such as is given in Dr. N. Chevers' able book on Criminal Jurisprudence, confirms this mournful impression. . . . I must repeat with regret that drunkenness (however quiet and silent in this country) is on the increase.—*Lord Bishop of Calcutta.*

I believe there has been a very great increase of drunkenness among the native community, particularly during the last ten years. The lower classes in Calcutta use cheap spirit and intoxicating drugs very much, but I cannot say whether they use more now than they did

ten years ago. The educated classes are, I believe, much more addicted to drinking now than they were ten years ago. Where fifty of these classes drank spirits ten years ago, a hundred drink spirits now. I believe that the action of the Excise Department has been one among several causes of the increase of drunkenness.—*Revd. J. W. E. Payne.*

There can, I think, be no possible doubt, particularly as regards spirituous liquors, that intemperance is steadily increasing in Bengal,—chiefly in the larger towns. The subject is one of very serious import, as the experience of the world has but too certainly proved that this vice leads to an increase of destitution, of disease, of mortality, and of crime. Its spread throughout Bengal might no doubt be prevented to a great degree; and now is the time for action before the evil attains wider limits. If very stringent measures were not now to be enforced, I feel convinced that within quarter of a century vast social evils would result which may (with such foresight as the Government is most wisely evincing) be averted at the present time.—*B. D. Smith, M.D.*

I confess I was very much surprised when first called on to treat diseases of the nervous system, and to detect alterations in various organs of the body produced by spirit drinking among natives of Bengal. The extent to which such habits prevail among the educated and wealthy classes, is, I am well aware, a subject for much grief to the relatives of those concerned, and I hardly think it would be making too sweeping an assertion to affirm that there is hardly a household in Calcutta to whom, more or less directly, the question of the habits which they witness with distress is not a personal one. Although every family has not the sad experience within its own walls, I doubt very much whether most of them could not produce an instance of misery and shame brought very closely home to them in the persons of those related to them by consanguinity or marriage.—*T. E. Charles, M.D.*

Drunkenness is decidedly on the increase, and its influence upon health is very injurious.—*S. G. Chuckerbutty, M.D.*

TESTIMONIES OF THE PRESS.

Under the influence of British rules and British laws Indian society is being sapped to its very foundation. The Indians, as a nation, were not much given to intoxicating drinks or drugs; they were quite content with the comparatively innocent stimulant of tobacco, but as civilization is spreading in this country, and the rigour of British administration is increasing, this monster vice is extending its domain. We have daily, nay hourly, evidences of the ravages which the brandy-bottle is making upon the flower of our society. Wealth, rank, honour and character, health and talents, have all perished in the blighting presence of this huge monster. Notwithstanding the improved education and resources of our higher classes, it is a notorious fact that they can now save very little, and this new feature of our domestic and social economy is in a great measure due to the fell drink-craving. Families, once flourishing, have been reduced to absolute pauperism by the wreck brought by it.—*Hindoo Patriot.*

Formerly none in this country touched wine. It is interdicted in the Shasters. If anybody was found to be addicted to drink, he was cut off from social intercourse, and hated as *patita* (fallen). When wine first entered Hindoo society in consequence of intercourse with the English, it was secretly used. Now it is so prevalent that, far from fearing society or the Shasters, men do not even regard their own superiors. We have seen how one after another some of those who formed the ornament of Hindoo society have prematurely died of intemperance. Within a few years this vice has extended over the whole country like a conflagration. Our prayer is that Government should close the manufacture of intoxicating liquors and drugs, and at once prevent the importation of foreign spirits by imposing a hundred per cent. duty on them. The people would gladly pay an income tax if levied in lieu of the profits of the liquor traffic.—*Shom Prakash.*

The rapidity with which the tide of intemperance is advancing in this country excites alarm in the minds of all but drunkards. That anything will stand in the face of the tide does not seem probable. In many places, especially among the higher classes, wine is being used as a necessary daily drink.—*Amrita Bazar Patrika.*

Under the action of the Abkaree Department, which, while affecting to suppress the evil, has always had an eye to the levy of the largest amount of duty, the consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs has spread very rapidly among all classes of the native com-

munity. . . . The utter failure of the Abkaree Department may be traced to the fact that, while flirting with English principles of political economy, it has made the best of both worlds, by feeding upon and encouraging an abnormal phase of native immorality.—*Indian Daily News*.

Unfortunately half a century of our vile excise laws, only now slightly modified, has deliberately taught the present and the rising generation the brutal pleasures of intoxication. But let Sir John Lawrence and Mr. Massey see to it, that, while we tax heavily those who indulge in a vice or a habit so fruitful of crime and immorality, we are not as a Government and a Christian nation guilty, through the Braddons and the darogahs of our establishment, through the utter carelessness of our system of licensing, deliberately tempting to drink a people, who but for us would have, in this respect at least, retained the simplicity, the innocence, and the happiness of ancestors that were an example to Christendom.—*Friend of India* (1866).

Facts and figures, published periodically and by authority, clearly show that drunkenness has been on the steady increase, and the opening of as large a number as five hundred new shops in a single section of a single presidency within the short space of a single year is evidence conclusive that the "treacherous vine" and other intoxicating drugs are spreading their devastating influence over the country with a rapidity and in a magnitude fearful to contemplate.—*Oudh Excelsior*.

Nearly five hundred new retail shops were opened in the North-Western Provinces during the past year, and the prospects of this branch of trade are exceedingly encouraging. The public revenue gains more than two lakhs of rupees by the increase, and we have nothing to do but congratulate ourselves at the prospect of lighter taxation. Some people, however, will be just blind enough not to see the prosperous part of this prosperity, and will hear with dismay of the five hundred new liquor shops, each one of which will destroy the life of from one to ten persons annually, eat up the earnings of from ten to fifty others, cause scores of children to go hungry on account of their parents' drunkenness, and sow the seeds of dissipation in the hearts of scores of industrious and sober men. It is not too late to check this rising danger to India, but we confess that nothing makes us feel so hopeless about it as this growing dependence of our public revenue upon this traffic. Every year it becomes more difficult to retrace our steps from a course which leads inevitably to public ruin. The most conservative English statesmen are taking alarm at the fatal increase of intemperance in England, but we have every reason to anticipate more ruinous effects in India. The people have not the physical stamina to resist the influence of strong drink, and in this burning climate the downward course of the poor victim is much more rapid than in England. We cannot be too earnest in calling attention to this peculiarly "elastic" source of revenue and misery.—*Lucknow Witness*.

We have often advocated a Permissive Prohibitory Bill for India; and, if this had been granted, a large part of the territory of India might have been shielded from the curse that is now daily spreading over the country.—*Bombay Guardian*.

That, in comparison with population, considerably more spirit is now consumed by the native population of Bengal than was consumed fifteen or twenty years ago is a fact which we are advised the excise returns would themselves establish. The increase of consumption has not, however, been uniform throughout the province. It has been much more rapid in the larger towns than in the hamlets and purely rural districts, and is said to have—at any rate apparently doubled itself in Calcutta within the last twenty years. The leaders of Native society and the Native Press have long been agreed that within the last two decades there has been a great increase of drunkenness in at least the presidency town and its immediate vicinity, and that the rules and procedure of the Abkaree Department, instead of checking, have facilitated that increase. The best proof of all is, however, afforded by the great lucrativeness of the retail spirit trade. For a native to own some half-dozen of these shops, is for him to stand assured of as good a yearly income as a well-managed medium-sized zemindary would yield, considering that it has been estimated that the profits of each such shop are not less than £40 per mensem. In fact, were the existing restrictions removed and complete free trade in intoxicating drinks allowed, the number of spirit vendors' shops would become doubled throughout India—with, we make bold to say, an appalling increase of drunkenness.—*Indian Statesman*.

No. 253, dated Simla, the 10th April 1875.

From—W. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Dept.,

To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 439, dated 22nd February last, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department,

as also of its enclosures, and in reply to communicate to you the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General, under section 43 of the Indian Councils' Act, 1861, to the Bill to amend Act XI of 1849, Act XXI of 1856, Act XXIII of 1860, and Act IV (B. C.) of 1866, being considered in the Bengal Legislative Council.

2. I am at the same time desired to invite the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to the provisions of Act XXII of 1864, sections 29 to 35, relating to the sale, &c., of spirits in Military Cantonments, and to express a hope that there will be nothing in the proposed measure which might clash with those provisions.

3. I am also to suggest that care be taken that the proposed Act is drawn in such terms as not to extend to Assam.

4. In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor General, it is most desirable that the law upon a subject in which the public are largely interested should be clearly arranged, and that, accordingly, either on the present occasion or after the amendments of the existing law which are proposed in this Bill have been made, the Acts relating to Abkari in the Lower Provinces should be consolidated.

5. With respect to the general question of excise administration in Bengal, I am to inform you that a further communication will be made to the Government of Bengal by the Financial Department.

No. 255, dated Simla, the 13th April 1875.

Endorsed by the Legislative Department.

From the Governor General of India, to the Secretary of State for India, No. 19, dated 12th April 1875.

Copy of the above and of the despatch noted in the margin, forwarded to the Financial Department for information.

No. 19, dated Simla, the 12th April 1875.

From—The Viceroy and Governor General of India,
To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

I have the honour to enclose, for Your Lordship's information, a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin, and of the Bill to amend Act XI of 1849, Act XXI of 1856, Act XXIII of 1860, and Act IV (B. C.) of 1866, to the consideration of which measure by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council I have accorded my sanction, under section 43 of the Indian Councils' Act, 1861.

2. Although the general question connected with the proposed legislation, that, namely, of the excise administration in Bengal, is one of great importance, yet the present Bill contains only amendments of detail in the existing law, and does not appear to come within the category of those measures which Your Lordship has desired to be reported to you previous to their introduction.

3. On the general question, however, a further communication will be made to Your Lordship by the Government of India in the Financial Department.

No. 469, dated Simla, the 29th April 1875.

From—R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., C.S.I., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Financial Dept.,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In continuation of the letter* addressed to you in the Legislative Department by which the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General was given for the introduction into the Bengal Legislative Council of a Bill to amend the law relating to the Excise Department in Bengal, I am directed by the Governor General in Council to communicate the following observations upon the important matters to which your letter No. 439, dated 22nd February 1875, refers.

* No. 252, dated 10th April 1875.

2. His Excellency in Council has read with attention the memorials and other papers submitted with your letter, and cordially recognises the public

spirit of those gentlemen who have addressed the Government on the excise administration of Bengal. The desire manifested for the discouragement of intemperance by every legitimate means has the cordial sympathy of the Governor General in Council. The danger, however, of attempting by measures of undue stringency to suppress the use of stimulants is clearly brought out by Mr. Money in his able Minute. They would without doubt lead to an increase of smuggling and illicit distillation; and thus to the greater evil of an unregulated traffic in drugs and spirits, which under the present system is at any rate subject to some measure of control. At the same time nothing should be done to place temptations in the way of the people that can possibly be avoided. The number of liquor shops should therefore be reduced to the utmost degree compatible with the reasonable requirements of the neighbourhood, and no new shops should anywhere be opened without strong evidence that on the above understanding they are really needed. These are the general principles which the Government of India desire everywhere to inculcate.

3. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may rest assured of receiving the support of the Government of India in any measure that he may adopt for limiting the consumption of ganja; and indeed, if the use of the drug could be altogether suppressed without the fear of leading to its contraband use, such a course would be justified by its deleterious effects.

4. In conclusion, I am to request that, with the permission of the Lieutenant-Governor, you will convey the thanks of the Government of India to Mr. Alonzo Money, C. B., for the very complete and excellent Minute which he has submitted on the subject, in the arguments and conclusions of which His Excellency in Council desires to express general concurrence.

5. The correspondence will be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

No. 5, dated Simla, the 29th April 1875.

From—The Government of India,

To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

In continuation of the Despatch from the Legislative Department, No. 19, dated 12th April 1875, we have the honor to forward, for Your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter*

* No. 469, dated 29th April 1875.

which we have caused to be addressed to the Government of Bengal on the subject of the administration of the Excise Department in the Territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

R. B. CHAPMAN,

Secretary to the Government of India.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE SEASON AND PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS FOR THE WEEK
ENDING THE 29TH APRIL 1875.

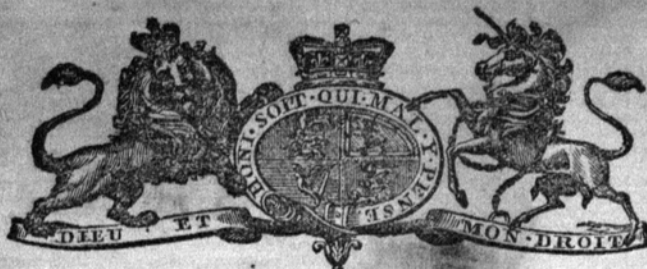
GENERAL REMARKS.—The rainfall of the past week seems to indicate an early monsoon. Slight rain has fallen in the northern districts of Madras and in Mysore, and heavier showers in the south and Malabar. In Bombay rain is reported only from the Southern Mahratta Country. In Bengal and Assam there has been general rain, heavy with storms in the Central Districts ($5\frac{1}{2}$ inches falling in Burdwan) and Sylhet, and lighter in Chota Nagpore and the Bhagulpore Division; hardly any fell in Behar. A little rain fell in Sambulpore and Bilaspore in the Central Provinces; elsewhere the returns are blank. Few crops remain on the ground. In Bengal the rain has greatly benefitted standing crops, and helped forward sowings for the early rice. In the Punjab the *Rabi* harvest continues. Agricultural prospects are generally good.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Madras—		
Kurnool (April 28th)	...	Harvest of cotton and second crop paddy in progress. Markets well supplied. Prices generally steady; fever prevalent. No water over Sunkesala anicut.
Kistna (29th)	...	At Masulipatam a little rain in four taluqs; land winds commenced; standing crops prospering; prices stationary; mild small-pox in some taluqs; fever in Paluad; cattle generally healthy; dry fodder used; markets well supplied locally.
Tanjore "	...	Rain at Negapatam '01 inch; elsewhere slight; rivers dry; water in tanks scanty; water over anicuts none; no cultivation; standing crops generally good; harvest of wet and dry crops over; pasture moderate; prices steady; markets well supplied; small-pox in some parts; cholera prevails in Negapatam, and slightly in Naunilum; cattle disease in two taluqs; some loss.
Trichinopoly (28th)	...	Favourable rain all over the district on the 21st or 22nd, otherwise no change of importance; season favorable.
Malabar (29th)	2·2	Sowing of first crop almost completed; supply of grain sufficient; prices stationary; season promising; no epidemic but small-pox, which still continues. <i>General Remarks.</i> —Prospects satisfactory.
Bombay—(April 29th)		
<i>Sindh.</i>		
Kurrachee (April 28th)	...	River continues rising; rabi harvest in Jerruck and Shahbandar over; rabi crops in Sehwan Tuppa Badanee and taluka Dadoo attacked by disease; insects damaging grain in Sehwan; rain on 11th in Moondur Tuppa and taluka Sehwan; kharif preparations commenced; measles in Tuppas Katha, Babla, Khetty, Bunder, Shawl, Sonda and Jerruck; fever still in Johi, Meerpur, Batora and Sehwan talukas; cattle disease in Sehwan, but not serious.
Shikarpur "	...	Weather much warmer during the day; nights cool; public health good.
Hyderabad "	...	State of crops, weather, and public health the same as before; river rising steadily.
Upper Sind Frontier "	...	Weather hot; temperature 119° in tents, above 140° exposed; reaping of rabi crops continues; <i>peshrus</i> crops being sown; insects on last flooded tracts, principally on reaped wheat and barley fields.
<i>Gujarat.</i>		
Ahmedabad (April 28th)	...	No change.
Surat "	...	Public health good; weather sultry.
Broach "	...	Cholera in Neriad, but very few cases prove fatal; public health good in other talukas; weather hot.
Kaira "	...	
<i>Khandesh and Nasik.</i>		
Khandesh (April 28th)	...	Cholera in Chalisgam taluka; cotton nearly exhausted; Malwa cotton coming in.
Nasik "	...	Cholera in a few villages in seven other talukas besides Nasik, but not to any great extent, except in Sinnar and Igatpura, where twenty-seven deaths took place; in Nasik, out of thirty-nine cases, twelve resulted in death; weather milder.
<i>Konkan.</i>		
Tanna (April 28th)	...	Weather cool; public health good; fever in Wada, Mahim and Shahpur talukas, and guinea-worm and small-pox in Wada taluka.
<i>Deccan.</i>		
Poona (April 28th)	...	Weather continues hot; except slight cattle disease and fever at Indapur and Mawul public health good.
Ahmednuggur "	...	Slight cattle disease in Rahuree and Parna talukas; four deaths from cholera in Ankola; public health good.
Sholapur "	...	Cattle disease in Sholapur; health good in other talukas.
Satara "	...	Ague and cattle disease in Patan and Kutao.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Punjab—		
Delhi (April 28th)	...	Crops nearly gathered; health good.
Hissar "	...	
Umballa "	...	Crops being cut; health good.
Jullundur "	...	
Lahore "	...	Health and crops good.
Rawul Pindi "	...	Crops and health good; cattle disease slight.
Mooltan "	...	Crops being cut; health good; water supply in canals insufficient.
Dera Ismail Khan "	...	Crops being gathered; health good.
Peshawar "	...	Harvest below average; slight fever still.
Oudh—		
Lucknow (April 28th)	Nil.	Threshing and winnowing of rabi crops going on; weather clear; 2,780 deaths from cholera reported during the past week, of which 145 occurred in the Lucknow District, 269 in Unao, 168 in Barabanki, 59 in Hardui, 30 in Kheri, 362 in Fyzabad, 424 in Gonda, 862 in Bahraich, 376 in Sultanpur and 89 in Partabgarh.
Fyzabad "	...	
Sitapur "	...	
Central Provinces—		
Sambalpur (April 24th)	22	Weather cloudy and stormy; kharif ploughing commenced; fever decreasing.
Bilaspur "	01	Weather clear; prospects good; small-pox and cholera in places; prices falling.
Raipur (25th)	...	Weather clear; rabi gathered; yield above average; health good; prices easy.
Chanda "	...	Weather clear; threshing rabi completed; fever, small-pox, and cattle disease in places; prices easy.
Balaghât (26th)	...	Weather cloudy but warm; rabi threshing; small-pox prevalent; prices steady.
Chhindwara "	...	Weather warm; prospects unchanged; health good; prices steady.
Bhandara (27th)	...	Weather cloudy and close; threshing rabi completed; fever and small-pox prevalent; prices easy.
Nagpur (28th)	...	Weather warm; harvest completed; prices stationary.
Wardha "	...	Ploughing for kharif commenced.
Nimar "	...	Weather clear; hot winds; 11 cases of cholera, 7 fatal; small-pox continues.
Hoshangabad "	...	Heat great.
Hetul "	...	
Narsingpur "	...	Prospects good; small-pox continues; prices stationary.
Jubbulpore "	...	Weather clear; hot winds; threshing rabi completed; health good.
Seoni "	...	Threshing rabi continues; fever prevalent.
Saugor "	...	Threshing rabi continues; small-pox prevalent; prices stationary.
<i>General Remarks.</i> —Cholera cases still continue to occur in Nimar and Bilaspur.		
Mysore and Coorg—		
Mysore	Rainfall slight; weather unsettled; strong winds from north and west; crops generally thriving; public health good.
Coorg	
<i>General Remarks.</i> —Agricultural prospects fair.		
Assam—		
Gauhati ...	1.09	Weather hot and unsettled; more or less overcast with heavy showers; prospects of crops favourable; public health good; cattle disease reported from Mauza Patidurrung.
Sylhet ...	4.36	Fieldwork progresses; rice market steady.
Hyderabad Assigned Districts—		
Umraoti	Small-pox decreasing; in Elichpur land under plough for ensuing cultivation; weather hot.
Rajpootana—		
Sirohi (April 26th)	...	Tanks dry; wells good; health very good; weather seasonable.
Marwar (17th)	...	Water becoming daily scarcer; health good; weather seasonable.
Meywar (23rd)	...	Water supply, health, and crops good; hot winds during the day.
Harowtee (28th)	...	Prospects and health unchanged.
Ajmere (29th)	...	Weather very hot and high winds; health good.
Jeypore	Harvest completed; results most satisfactory; weather seasonable; health continues good.
Eastern States	Agricultural prospects unchanged; hot winds commenced; several cases of cholera reported.
Central India—		
Indore (April 28th)	Cholera decreasing in Rewah, but has broken out in the neighbouring State of Nagoo with some virulence; no fresh case for four days on the Holkar Railway Works at Choral and neighbourhood; cholera flying about towns in Western Malwa, but nowhere epidemic; in other respects health and prospects good in Central India.
Rutlam " ...		
Neemuch " ...		
Baghelkhand " ...		
Nepal— (April 21st) ...	Nil.	

A. O. HUME,

Sd/-y to the Government of India.



EXTRA SUPPLEMENT TO The Gazette of India.

No. 19.}

SIMLA, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1875.

{ Register
No. 75.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE SEASON AND PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 6TH MAY 1875.

GENERAL REMARKS.—The rainfall of the past week has been light in Madras, Mysore, and the southern Mahratta Districts of Bombay. Storms are reported from Nagpore, Bilaspore and Balaghat in the Central Provinces. In Bengal there has been a seasonable and general fall throughout the whole province, with the exception of a small portion of Behar. Heavy rain has fallen in Assam and Sylhet. In the North-Western Provinces, light showers are reported from Meerut, Benares and Jhansi; elsewhere the returns are blank. Few crops remain on the ground. In Bengal the rice sowings are progressing favourably, and the harvest continues in the Punjab with generally fair results.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Madras—		
Kistna (April 6th)	·18 at Masuliputam. ·4 at Venukonda.	Second crop of kolair suffering from want of water; prices stationary; public health good; cattle generally healthy; dry fodder used; markets well supplied locally; thunder and cloudy weather on Tuesday.
Kurnool (5th)	·9 at Markapur	No rain in Kurnool; second crop of paddy and cotton harvest continues; outturn fair; markets well supplied; prices stationary; water and pasture sufficient; no water over Sunkesala anicut; fever and cattle disease prevalent.
Tanjore (6th)	...	Rain at Negapatam none; elsewhere slight and partial; water scanty in some rivers, and none in others; supply to tanks considerable; water over anicuts nil; cultivation of raggi and gingelly oil seeds in some places; standing crops generally good; harvest a few dry grains; yield fair; pasture procurable; prices steady; markets well supplied; small-pox and fever in some localities; cholera in Negapatam and in some other places; cattle disease in four taluqs.
Trichinopoly (5th)	...	Slight rain in three taluqs; no other change of importance.
Malabar (6th)	··4	Sowing of first crop in progress; supply of grain sufficient; prices stationary; season continues promising; small-pox decreasing.
		<i>General Remarks.</i> —General prospects satisfactory.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Bombay—(May 6th)		
<i>Sindh.</i>		
Kurrachee (May 5th) ...	...	River at Kotree on 1st 6 feet 6 inches, against 7 feet 10 inches on same date last year; cotton sowings commenced in Dadoo and Sehwan talukas; damage to wheat crops in Sehwan from blight, and grain attacked by worm; fever in Sehwan, Johi and Meerapoor Batora; cattle disease in Sehwan and Kotree; measles in Jerruck and Khetty, and Tuppas Ghorabaree and Kutha; no fresh cases of small-pox.
Shikarpur ...	...	Harvest generally gathered; weather warmer, but nights cool; much fever.
Hyderabad ...	...	Rabi crops being harvested, outturn fairly good; small-pox continues in talukas Badin and Aalhar-Ka-Tanda; public health otherwise good; river steadily rising.
Upper Sind Frontier ...	...	Weather hot and close; harvesting of rabi crops continues; public health fair.
<i>Gujarat.</i>		
Ahmedabad ...	...	Weather moderately warm; public health good.
Kaira ...	...	Cholera continues in Neriad; weather hot.
Surat ...	...	Weather and public health good.
Broach ...	...	Public health good; weather sultry.
<i>Khandesh and Nasik.</i>		
Khandesh ...	...	Cholera in Dhulia, Parola, Chalisgaon and Bhusawal talukas; measles and cattle disease in some parts. Cotton market dull; Hingunghat 50 per pulla, American 52; weather hot.
Nasik ...	...	Cholera abating in all talukas; no cases at Nasik; lands being ploughed for cultivation; weather cooler.
<i>Konkan.</i>		
Tanna ...	...	Weather hot; public health good; fever in Wada and Shahpur talukas, and guinea-worm and small-pox in Wada taluka, wherein scarcity of drinking-water continues to be felt at some places.
<i>Deccan.</i>		
Poona ...	...	Weather hot; cattle disease and fever in Indapur and Mawul, except slight cholera in Kheid and Havelee; public health good.
Ahmednuggur ...	...	Cholera in some villages of talukas Ankola and Copergaum; a few deaths from it in Ankola taluka; slight cattle disease in Rahuree and Parna talukas; health good.
Sholapur ...	...	No change.
Satara ...	...	Public health good; ague and cattle-disease in Khutao; days sultry; nights cool.
<i>Southern Mahratta Country.</i>		
Belgaum ...	1	No change.
Dharwar ...	04	Cotton picking nearly over; fever increasing in Gadak and Mundargi, and causing mortality in Kod, but decreasing in Hubli and Savanur; fever in other talukas as before; cattle-disease decreasing in Kod and Savanur.
	in PethaMundargi 75.	Ploughing operations continue; fever, small-pox and cattle-disease prevalent.
Kanara ...	...	Weather very warm; fever in Bijapur.
Kaladgi ...	...
<i>Kathiawar and Gaekwar's Territory.</i>		
Rajkot ...	...	No change.
Wudwan ...	...	Weather hot; health moderate.
Baroda ...	...	No change.
		<i>General Remarks.</i> —Weather very hot; slight cholera.
Bengal—		
Burdwan (May 6th) ...	...	Cholera and small-pox prevalent; fever decreasing.
Hooghly ...	...	Cholera and small-pox less.
24-Pergunnahs ...	1.76	Cholera abated everywhere; fever increasing at Barripore.
Moorshedabad ...	23	Cholera still bad at Gowas Circle, 16 deaths during the week; mild form of small-pox at Sujaganj and Berhampore.
Rajshahye ...	19	Cholera prevalent, principally in the north-east of the district.
Pubna ...	...	Cholera continues.
Furreedpore ...	1.55	Several cases of cholera at head-quarters.
Noakhally ...	3.99	Cholera abating.
Patna ...	...	Cholera still prevalent, but nowhere in epidemic form.
Gya ...	...	Cholera slightly prevalent in some parts.
Shahabad ...	1.28	Cholera in parts of the district.
Darbangah ...	...	Cholera still reported, but fewer in number.
Mozufferpore ...	1.45	In Jullah and Kutrah thanas cholera has broken out and is spreading rather rapidly.
Sarun ...	...	General health good.
Bhagulpore ...	...	Cholera decreasing.
Purneah ...	1.218	Cholera appearing on the borders; small-pox heard of occasionally; cattle disease in places bad.
Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	...	Cholera in the north steadily declining.
Balasore ...	...	Small-pox still prevalent.
Lohardagga ...	9	A few cases of cholera.
Palamow ...	...	Cattle disease still present, but not bad.
Backerganj ...	9.96	

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Bengal—continued.		
Bankoora (May 6th)	·77	
Beerbhoom "	·08	
Midnapore "	3·05	
Hooghly "	2·96	
Howrah "	2·04	
Nuddea "	1·04	
Jessore "	·71	
Dinagepore "	1·89	
Maldah "	·22	
Rungpore "	3·0	
Bogra "	·65	
Pubna "	·42	
Jalpaiguri "	3·39	
Cooch Behar "	1·49	
Dacca "	1·82	
Mymensingh "	·68	
Chittagong "	3·71	
Hill Tipperah "	1·73	
Monghyr "	2·71	
Pooree "	·38	
Singbhoom "	·04	
Maunbhoom "	·14	
Tipperah "	·23	
General Remarks.—Very seasonable rain has fallen throughout Bengal and Orissa and in two-thirds of the Behar districts, also in all the Chota Nagpore districts, except in Hazaribagh. Tillage is progressing rapidly, as are the rice sowings. Harvest of the rabi is closed, and boro or spring rice is being reaped in some places and doing well in all.		
N. W. P.—		
Banda (May 5th)	...	} No change.
Agra "	...	
Bareilly "	...	} Light shower with some hail in Pargana Chandauli. Wind still east; storms without rain on 2nd; weather cooler. Grain very cheap by reason of good harvest. Clouds with slight rain on 2nd. Harvest over.
Benares "	...	
Mirzapur "	...	
Allahabad "	...	
Jhansi (4th)	...	
Meerut (5th)	·3	
Punjab—		
Delhi (May 5th)	...	} Crops gathered; health good. Crops being gathered; health good. Crops harvested; health good. Reaping over; health good. Crops and health good. Harvest nearly over; health good. Reaping over; health good. Probable outturn of harvest below average; slight fever in parts of district. Crops being gathered; health good.
Hissar "	...	
Umballa "	...	
Jullundur "	...	
Lahore "	...	
Rawul Pindi "	...	
Mooltan "	...	
Peshawar "	...	
Dera Ismail Khan "	...	
Oudh—		
Lucknow (May 5th)	Nil.	} Crops all cut; sugarcane being irrigated; weather clear; 2,270 deaths from cholera reported during the past week, of which 95 occurred in the Lucknow District, 113 in Unao, 98 in Sitapur, 43 in Hardui, 298 in Fyzabad, 457 in Gonda, 853 in Bahraich, 14 in Rai Bareli, 255 in Sultanpore and 48 in Partabgarh.
Fyzabad "	Rainfall slight.	
Sitapur "	Nil.	
Central Provinces—		
Upper Godavari (May 1st)	...	} Weather clear; small-pox continues; prices steady. Weather clear, but hot; kharif ploughing commenced; fever decreasing. Weather stormy; cholera in one village; small-pox continues; prices easy. Weather close, but cloudy; health good; prices stationary. Weather cloudy and stormy; rabi threshing; small-pox and cattle disease continue; prices steady. Weather cloudy and stormy; harvest completed; prices rising. Cow-pox and small-pox prevalent. Weather clear but hot; 17 cases of cholera, 9 fatal; small-pox continues. Weather sultry; a few cases of cholera. Crops good; small-pox declining; prices stationary. Weather cloudy; small-pox continues. Weather hot; threshing rabi continues; small-pox prevalent; prices stationary. Rabi threshed and stored. Weather clear; rabi gathered; health good; prices easy. General Remarks.—Cholera has appeared in the Narbada Valley along the line of railway; special measures have been taken to treat cases.
Sambalpur "	...	
Bilaspur "	...	
Chhindwara (3rd)	...	
Balaghât "	...	
Nagpur (5th)	...	
Wardha "	...	
Nimar "	...	
Hoshangabad "	...	
Betul "	...	
Harda "	...	
Narsingpur "	...	
Jubbulpore "	...	
Saugor "	...	
Seoni "	...	
Raipur (2nd)	...	

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Mysore and Coorg—		
Mysore (May 6th) ...	15 in Bangalore Cantonment.	} Public health good.
Coorg „	2 in Mercara.	
<i>General Remarks.</i> —Agricultural prospects fair.		
Assam—		
Gauhati (May 6th) ...	1.79	Weather hot and unsettled; heavy rain storms occasionally; prospects of crops favorable; cattle disease reported from several mauzas in North Kamrup; cholera and diarrhoea at Gauhati.
Sylhet „	15.96	Reaping boro paddy continues; outturn good; heavy rain during the week, field work consequently retarded.
Hyderabad Assigned Districts—		
Umraoti ...	...	Small-pox nearly abated in Elichpur; land under plough for ensuing cultivation.
Rajpootana—		
Meywar (April 30th)	...	Water supply, health and prospects good; hot winds prevailing.
Marwar (May 5th)	...	All wells have dried up with the exception of two; people are obliged to go to distant places for water; health good; no crops; weather seasonable.
Harowtee ...	...	Health and prospects unchanged.
Jeypore (6th)	...	Agricultural prospects unchanged; weather seasonable; health good.
Ajmere ...	...	Strong south-westerly winds have prevailed; weather hot but healthy.
Bhurtpore ...	...	No change; prices rising owing to heavy purchase by dealers for storage.
Sirohi (3rd)	...	Tanks dry; wells good; health very good; weather seasonable.
Central India—		
Indore (May 5th)	...	} Public health generally good; cholera has abated in Malwa and is less fatal where it occurs; Indore and the Khandwa road free.
Gwalior „	...	
Neemuch „	...	
Nepal— (April 28th)	2.77	

A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

VII.
PROVINCIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

REVENUE.	ACCOUNTS, 1873-74.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	REGULAR ESTIMATES, COM- PARED WITH BUDGET ESTI- MATES, 1874-75.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1875-76.	BUDGET ESTI- MATES, 1875-76, COMPARED WITH REGULAR ESTI- MATES, 1874-75.
OPENING BALANCE ...	£ 637,981	£ 610,732	£ -380,303	£ 283,055	£ + 52,626
IMPERIAL ALLOTMENT FOR PROVINCIAL SERVICES ...	5,063,972	5,030,000	+ 93,000	5,058,400	- 61,000
TAXES, RATES AND CESSSES—					
On lands ...					
On houses ...					
Assessed taxes ...	1,265	1,200	+ 50	1,200	50
Miscellaneous Taxes—					
Octroi ...					
Licenses ...					
Miscellaneous ...					
DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS—					
Jails ...	273,351	306,975	+ 50	1,200	- 50
Registration ...	172,006	180,373	- 2,243	326,846	+ 22,114
Police ...	90,790	84,860	+ 5,508	185,046	+ 10,181
Education ...	109,052	103,997	+ 7,024	90,838	- 1,046
Medical ...	36,390	22,827	+ 1,135	108,909	+ 1,777
Printing ...	17,686	16,776	+ 1,879	26,583	+ 1,877
Marine ...	9		+ 916	18,066	+ 1,374
	699,284	714,808	+ 3,641	2,500	- 1,141
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS—					
Tolls ...	3,890	3,310	- 10	4,930	+ 1,630
Port-dues ...					
Interest ...					
Rents ...	63		+ 164	164	
Sale of lands, houses, &c. ...	1,353		+ 2,677	6,271	+ 3,594
Model farms ...	12,742	10,867	+ 2,336	12,123	+ 1,080
Miscellaneous fees and fines ...	228,900		+ 350	350	+ 350
Voluntary contributions ...	17,379	13,855	+ 66	10,041	- 3,880
Sundry receipts ...					
	264,327	28,032	+ 5,233	33,879	+ 614
CONTRIBUTIONS	195,084	189,620	+ 24,581	134,196	- 80,005
PUBLIC WORKS	145,970	56,540	+ 25,183	44,066	- 37,657
TOTAL REVENUE ...	6,375,902	6,020,200	+ 154,891	6,030,529	- 144,562
DEBT ACCOUNTS	248,594	110,000	+ 7,288	92,100	- 25,188
GRAND TOTAL £	7,202,477	6,740,932	- 218,124	6,405,684	- 117,124
EXPENDITURE.					
REFUNDS ...	£ 15,946	£ 4,373	£ 6,938	£ 2,565	£ - 1,922
COLLECTION OF TAXES AND CESSES ...					
JAILS ...	681,410	717,219	...	697,557	...
REGISTRATION ...	113,505	127,311	...	121,051	...
POLICE ...	2,099,153	2,112,485	...	2,102,048	...
EDUCATION ...	699,527	754,795	...	689,065	...
MEDICAL ...	397,890	389,979	...	384,427	...
PRINTING ...	145,772	148,769	...	157,762	...
MARINE ...	6,164	6,938	...	7,335	...
MINOR ESTABLISHMENTS—					
General management ...	9,091	2,314	...	9,529	...
Collection of tolls, rents, &c. ...	25	...	...	...	...
Collection of cattle trespass fines ...	...	3,924	...	3,965	...
Cemeteries ...	4,150	24,483	...	23,887	...
District post ...	23,585	...	...	5,853	...
Model farms ...	2,942	...	...	16,202	...
Miscellaneous establishments ...	22,344	11,831	...	28,033	...
	62,137	42,502	...	71,267	...
OFFICE RENT, RATES AND TAXES ...	58,242	55,998	...	54,855	...
MISCELLANEOUS ...	93,201	105,902	...	84,114	...
CONTRIBUTIONS ...	520,126	24,803	...	39,815	...
PUBLIC WORKS ...	4,893,073	4,491,074	...	4,416,234	...
	1,921,238	1,621,326	...	1,728,131	...
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ...	6,814,311	6,112,400	...	6,144,365	...
DEBT ACCOUNTS ...	217,737	112,000	...	95,388	...
CLOSING BALANCE ...	230,429	516,532	...	283,055	...
GRAND TOTAL £	7,202,477	6,740,932	...	6,522,808	...

R. B. CHAPMAN,

E. F. HARRISON,

E. GAY,

Fort William,
Financial Department;
The 9th April 1875.

VIII. LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

REVENUE.	ACCOUNTS, 1873-74.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	REGULAR ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1875-76.	Budget Estimate, 1875-76, com- pared with regular esti- mates, 1874-75.	EXPENDITURE.	ACCOUNTS, 1873-74.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	REGULAR ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1875-76.	Budget Estimate, 1875-76, com- pared with regular esti- mates, 1874-75.
OPENING BALANCE	£ 2,127,388	£ 2,021,672	£ 2,039,839	£ 1,936,414	£ 43,425	REFUNDS	£ 58,946	£ 5,362	£ 22,404	£ 8,580	£ 13,824
SPECIAL ALLOTMENT IN AID OF FAMINE RELIEF WORKS	...	...	709,800	...	...	COLLECTION OF TAXES AND CESSES.	19,305	16,809	20,290	24,293	4,003
TAXES, RATES AND CESSSES—	...	...	...	...	...	JAILS	10,526	956	16,965	2,634	14,331
On lands	1,821,300	1,799,236	1,836,415	1,812,680	23,735	REGISTRATION	447	517	581	556	25
On houses	47,628	44,950	49,980	46,301	3,679	POLICE	312,448	317,178	304,286	315,132	10,846
Assessed taxes	18,199	17,563	17,530	17,530	5,760	EDUCATION	252,541	312,344	298,131	313,764	15,633
Miscellaneous Taxes—	...	...	...	...	...	MEDICAL	95,551	127,582	108,633	141,206	32,523
Octroi	7,910	8,444	8,000	8,455	455	PRINTING	1,817	798	1,598	1,266	332
Licenses	26,995	24,634	32,774	31,682	1,092	MARINE	44,540	52,262	62,048	63,344	1,296
Miscellaneous	9,211	7,107	13,068	14,089	1,091						
DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS—	1,931,243	1,901,994	1,957,767	1,936,497	21,270	MINOR ESTABLISHMENTS—					
Jails	5,560	5,000	3,500	5,000	1,500	General management	66,766	59,109	91,738	81,026	10,712
Registration	1,028	1,000	1,040	1,056	16	Collection of tolls, rents, &c.	13,362	31,329	22,582	51,811	29,229
Police	37,407	18,899	19,246	18,979	267	Collection of cattle trespass fines	25,999	14,695	31,122	26,917	4,205
Education	21,394	47,023	23,719	24,937	978	Cemeteries	195	100	230	231	1
Medical	720	121	70	121	51	District post	50,280	51,196	51,604	53,976	2,372
Printing	1,257	820	800	800	...	Model farms	...	457,363	477,829	473,485	4,344
Marine	6,763	3,365	3,365	4,150	785	Miscellaneous establishments	455,352	...	...	...	...
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS—	74,129	76,228	51,740	54,803	3,093						
Tolls	299,697	381,394	375,153	370,684	4,469	OFFICE RENT, RATES AND TAXES	611,954	613,792	675,105	687,446	12,341
Port dues	62,414	59,380	64,119	60,960	3,159		86	93	54	...	54
Interest	47,021	15,354	42,930	42,538	382	MISCELLANEOUS	148,930	152,559	175,497	162,549	12,948
Rents	62,856	72,471	76,935	88,112	11,777	CONTRIBUTIONS	612,222	366,324	414,141	322,883	91,258
Sale of lands, houses, &c.	8,361	4,225	12,700	5,651	7,049						
Model farms	...	...	...	...	...	PUBLIC WORKS	2,169,313	1,966,606	2,099,783	2,043,653	56,130
Miscellaneous fees and fines	177,107	162,318	181,250	184,803	3,553		1,950,760	1,643,565	2,608,742	1,782,428	826,314
Voluntary contributions	527,388	119,926	73,514	69,967	3,547						
Sundry receipts	377,092	148,583	188,224	245,009	56,785						
CONTRIBUTIONS	1,561,936	963,651	1,014,825	1,067,724	52,899	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,120,073	3,610,171	4,708,625	3,826,081	882,444
PUBLIC WORKS	458,274	150,018	823,133	386,762	436,371	DEBT ACCOUNTS	127,137	16,929	57,964	26,080	31,884
DEBT ACCOUNTS	89,078	63,300	16,700	13,615	3,085	CLOSING BALANCE	2,039,839	1,566,172	1,996,414	1,803,039	193,375
TOTAL REVENUE	4,114,660	3,155,191	4,573,965	3,459,401	1,114,564						
GRAND TOTAL	£ 6,287,049	£ 5,193,272	£ 6,762,903	£ 5,655,200	£ 1,107,703	GRAND TOTAL	£ 6,287,049	£ 5,193,272	£ 6,762,903	£ 5,655,200	£ 1,107,703

FOOT WILLIAM,
NANCIAL DEPARTMENT;
The 24th April 1875.

E. F. HARRISON,
Comptroller General.

E. GAY,
Deputy Comptroller General.

R. B. CHAPMAN,
Secy to the Govt. of India.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE THROUGH GOVERNMENT TREASURIES.

INCOME.	ACCOUNTS, 1873-74.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	REGULAR ESTIMATES, 1874-75.	REGULAR ESTIMATES, COM- PARED WITH BUDGET ESTI- MATES, 1874-75.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1875-76.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, COM- PARED WITH BUDGET ESTI- MATES, 1874-75.	REGULAR ESTIMATES, 1875-76.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1875-76.	BUDGET ESTIMATES, COM- PARED WITH BUDGET ESTI- MATES, 1874-75.
OPENING BALANCES ...	£ 140,311	£ 142,399	£ 151,838	£ 9,439	£ 129,437	£ 22,401	£ 129,437	£ 129,437	£ 22,401
TAXES, RATES AND CSESSES—									
On lands	1,733	81	2,004	1,923	2,196	192	2,196	2,196	192
On houses	104,433	121,982	90,691	31,291	121,059	30,368	121,059	121,059	30,368
Assessed taxes	60,571	19,130	155,741	136,611	21,087	134,654	21,087	21,087	134,654
Miscellaneous Taxes—									
Ox-droi	386,619	383,010	256,359	126,651	384,908	128,549	384,908	384,908	128,549
Licences	25,527	31,664	20,430	11,234	40,651	20,221	40,651	40,651	20,221
Miscellaneous	5,524	3,256	3,899	643	4,382	483	4,382	4,382	483
	584,407	559,123	529,124	29,999	574,283	45,159	574,283	574,283	45,159
DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS—									
Jails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Registration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Education	245	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Printing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	245	...	...	...	3,162	3,162	3,162	3,162	3,162
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS—									
Tolls	44,384	45,143	12,591	32,552	44,183	31,592	44,183	44,183	31,592
Port dues	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Interest	2,705	700	1,396	696	1,899	503	1,899	1,899	503
Rents	42,760	42,252	52,001	9,749	50,182	1,819	50,182	50,182	1,819
Sale of lands, houses, &c...	6,091	619	2,995	2,376	5,737	2,742	5,737	5,737	2,742
Model farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous fees and fines	17,028	18,945	19,576	631	22,860	3,284	22,860	22,860	3,284
Voluntary contributions	5,207	2,362	1,074	1,288	1,312	238	1,312	1,312	238
Sundry receipts	80,916	45,286	147,406	102,120	24,181	123,225	24,181	24,181	123,225
	199,141	155,307	237,039	81,732	150,354	86,685	150,354	150,354	86,685
CONTRIBUTIONS									
PUBLIC WORKS	19,193	6,970	2,413	4,557	16,476	14,063	16,476	16,476	14,063
	731	...	...	...	859	859	859	859	859
	803,717	721,400	768,576	47,176	745,134	23,442	745,134	745,134	23,442
	14,667	1,600	95,208	33,608	9,624	25,584	9,624	9,624	25,584
	958,695	865,399	955,622	90,223	884,195	71,427	884,195	884,195	71,427

PORT WILLIAM,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT;
The 24th April 1875.

E. GAY,
Deputy Comptroller General.

E. F. HARRISON,
Comptroller General.

R. B. CHAPMAN,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.



EXTRA SUPPLEMENT TO
The Gazette of India.

No. 20.}

SIMLA, SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1875.

{ Register
No. 75.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

A SUPPLEMENT to the GAZETTE OF INDIA will be published from time to time containing such Official Papers and information as the Government of India may deem to be of interest to the Public, and such as may usefully be made known.

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No Official Orders or Notifications, the publication of which in the GAZETTE OF INDIA is required by Law, or which it has been customary to publish in the CALCUTTA GAZETTE, will be included in the SUPPLEMENT. For such Orders and Notifications the body of the GAZETTE must be looked to.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE SEASON AND PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS FOR THE WEEK
ENDING THE 13TH MAY 1875.

GENERAL REMARKS.—In Madras, a portion of the Southern Mahratta Districts of Bombay, and Mysore, there have been slight and partial falls of rain during the week. Throughout Bengal the rainfall has been general, and in some districts heavy for the time of the year; there has also been a good fall in Sylhet, but very little fell in Assam. In the North-West Provinces, slight showers are reported from Jhansi, Meerut, and Bareilly, and in Oudh from Sitapur; the returns from other parts are blank. With the exception of Jalpaiguri, where injury is apprehended to the young rice and jute, the rain has benefitted the crops generally in Bengal, and helped on sowing operations. The crops throughout the Punjab are nearly all harvested.

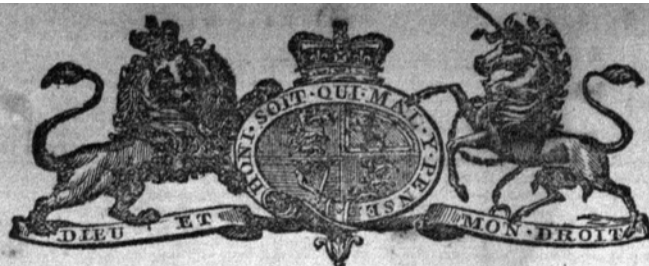
Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Madras—		
Kistna (May 13th)	...	No rain at Masulipatam; 0.55 at Repalli; .50 at Nandigama; none elsewhere; at Kolair summer crops suffering from want of rain; markets well supplied locally; prices steady; mild small-pox continues; cattle unhealthy in some localities; dry fodder sufficient.
Kurnool (12th)	...	0.25 inch of rain fell in Kurnool on one day; slight showers elsewhere; cotton and second crop paddy harvests; markets well supplied; prices steady; water and pasture sufficient; fever prevalent; no water over Sankesala anicut.
Tanjore (13th)	0.84 at Negapatam.	Drizzling in Mayaveram alone; rivers dry; supply to tanks none; no water over anicuts; cultivation not yet commenced; standing crops generally good; harvest of a few dry grains, yield fair; markets well supplied; prices steady; fever and small-pox in some parts; cholera in Negapatam and Namulum; cattle disease in three taluks; pasture scanty.
Trichinopoly (12th)	...	Slight rain in one taluk; no change of importance.
Malabar (13th)	0.1	Only one shower during the week, more required; markets well supplied; prices steady; some small-pox; no cholera.
		<i>General Remarks.</i> —Prospects satisfactory.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Bombay—		
<i>Sindh.</i>		
Kurrachee (May 12th)	...	River rising; fever in two, and cattle disease in three talukas; North-West winds on Sunday and Monday with great heat; nights still and warm.
Shikarpur "	...	Wheat harvest gathered; insects in Kumber taluka injuring harvested grain; cattle disease disappeared; nights cool; fever prevailing; river 7 feet 1 inch on Bukkur; gauge height one foot less than last year.
Hyderabad "	...	State of crops, weather and health the same as before; mango crop destroyed by blight; river slightly higher.
Upper Sind Frontier "	...	Weather hot with occasional dust-storms; nights cool; harvesting of kharif crops continues; river floods have reached the Kusmore Begari Bund at Burri; health fair.
<i>Gujarat.</i>		
Ahmedabad ...	...	State of weather the same as before; cholera slightly prevalent.
Kaira ...	...	A few deaths from cholera in some talukas; weather hot.
Surat ...	...	Weather and public health good.
Broach ...	...	Public health good; weather sultry.
<i>Khandesh and Nasik.</i>		
Khandesh ...	...	Cholera continues; preparations for monsoon crops in progress; cotton market dull—Hinganghat 48, American 50; ginning finished.
Nasik ...	...	No change.
<i>Konkan.</i>		
Tanna ...	...	Weather tolerably cool; public health good; slight fever in Shahpur taluka; scarcity of drinking water in some places in Wada taluka.
<i>Deccan.</i>		
Poona ...	...	Weather hot; fever in Indapur; cholera in four talukas, and cattle disease in a few talukas.
Ahmednuggur ...	...	Cholera in four, and cattle disease in two talukas.
Sholapur ...	...	No change.
Satara ...	...	Slight fever in Malwa; ague in Pahtun; cattle disease in three talukas.
<i>Southern Mahratta Country.</i>		
Belgaum ...	...	Fever prevalent; cattle disease in Uthni taluka.
Dharwar ...	...	Slight rain in a few places; cotton harvest over in six talukas.
Kanara ...	...	Sowing for monsoon crop commenced; weather hot; fever, small-pox, and cattle disease prevalent.
Kaladgi ...	...	Crops harvested; land being cleared for next sowing; health good.
<i>Kathiawar and Gaekwar's Territory.</i>		
Rajkot ...	...	Weather very hot.
Wudwan ...	...	Weather very hot; health moderate.
		<i>General Remarks.</i> —Cholera still continues in some districts.
Bengal—		
Burdwan (May 13th)	...	Cholera decreasing.
Hooghly "	1.8	Cholera and small-pox have nearly disappeared since the rain, but in places cholera is still unabated.
24-Pergunnahs "	...	Sickness decreasing.
Moorsshedabad "	1.51	Health good.
Dinapore "	1.55	Cholera on the increase, both in regard to cases and deaths.
Rajshahye "	1.3	Cholera has abated considerably.
Pubna "	1.55	Cholera abating.
Jalpaiguri "	3.46	Cholera is general over the district and worst in Buxa sub-division, where in one part it has assumed severe epidemic type.
Cooch Behar "	4.03	Cholera raging in some parts.
Dacca "	.08	Health improving.
Furreedpore "	.4	General health good.
Chittagong Hill Tracts, "	3.29	Cholera in several parts.
Patna "	...	Cholera is spreading on the south and south-west, not actually in epidemic form.
Gya "	.21	Cholera is decreasing.
Shahabad "	...	Sporadic cholera reported in some villages of Sasseram and Buxar sub-division.
Darbahang "	1.06	Cholera still exists in some villages.
Mozufferpore "	...	Cholera in epidemic form in many parts.
Sarun "	...	General health good.
Chumparun "	.2	A good deal of fever about.
Bhagulpore "	...	General health good.
Sonthal Pergunnahs "	.69	General health improving.
Cuttack "	.91	Public health good; cholera disappeared.
Balasore "	...	Cholera still diminishing.
Lohardagga "	.64	Small-pox still prevalent and a few sporadic cases of cholera reported from Palamow.
Singbhoom "	1.38	Healthy.
Bankoora "	1.16	
Beerbhoom "	.88	

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Bengal—continued.		
Midnapore	1.44	
Howrah	1.34	
Nuddea	1.89	
Jessore	3.29	
Maldah	.39	
Rungpore	1.51	
Bogra	.94	
Backergunge	2.85	
Mymensingh	3.33	
Noakhally	3.45	
Hill Tipperah	5.07	
Pooree	.01	
Hazaribagh	.03	
Maunbhoom	1.08	
Tipperah	.51	
<i>General Remarks.</i> —There has been rain throughout Bengal, Behar and Orissa, and the fall has been heavy for the time of year in some districts, and in Jalpaiguri some injury is apprehended to the young rice and to jute, but the rain has done immense good to the crops generally, it has also facilitated sowing operations, which are proceeding rapidly. Boro rice is still being reaped; other crops progressing favourably.		
N. W. P.—		
Benares (May 12th)	...	} East wind continues; no change.
Mirzapur "	...	
Allahabad "	...	} No change.
Banda "	...	
Agra "	...	
Jhansi "	.2	
	on the 3rd instant.	
Hamirpur (May 13th)	...	} West wind; no other change.
Meerut (12th)	.2	
Bareilly "	.3	
	in Parganas Bisalpur.	
Punjab—		
(May 12th)	...	<i>General Remarks.</i> —Reports from districts show that the crops throughout the province are nearly all harvested. General health good with the exception of slight fever still in the Peshawur District and eleven cases of cholera reported in city of Delhi. From 6th to 12th May two deaths.
Oudh—		
Lucknow (May 12th)	Nil	} Prices low; weather clear; 2,173 deaths from cholera reported during the past week, of which 56 occurred in Lucknow, 256 in Unao, 93 in Barabanki, 15 in Hardui, 100 in Kheri, 158 in Fyzabad, 459 in Gonda, 799 in Bharaich, 10 in Rae Bareli, 154 in Sultanpur, and 73 in Partabgarh.
Fyzabad "	"	
Sitapur "	.2	
Central Provinces—		
Upper Godavari (May 8th)	...	Weather cloudy and stormy; small-pox prevalent; prices steady.
Sambalpur "	...	Weather stormy; kharif ploughing continues; fever decreasing.
Bilaspur "	...	Weather cloudy and stormy; cholera in Mungels town; prices easy.
Raipur (9th)	...	Weather clear; health good; prices easy.
Chanda "	...	Cloudy, hot; fever abating.
Balaghât (10th)	...	Weather warm; threshing rabi continues; small-pox and cattle disease prevalent; prices steady.
Chhindwara "	...	Weather cloudy; health good; prices steady.
Bhandara (11th)	...	Weather cloudy and close; kharif ploughing commenced; fever and small-pox prevalent; prices stationary.
Nagpur (12th)	...	Weather close; kharif ploughing commenced; prices rising.
Wardha "	...	Small-pox continues.
Nimar "	...	43 cases of cholera, 18 fatal; small-pox decreasing; prices easy.
Hoshangabad "	}	} Weather hot and oppressive.
Betul "		
Narsingpur "	...	Small-pox and fever prevalent; prices stationary.
Jubbulpore "	...	Weather clear; two imported cases of cholera; small-pox continues.
Saugor "	...	Weather warm; threshing rabi continues; small-pox prevalent; prices stationary.
Seoni "	...	Rabi stored; kharif ploughing commenced; bowel complaint prevalent.
<i>General Remarks.</i> —Cholera cases continue to occur in the Nimar and Hoshangabad Districts; precautions have been taken and medical aid is available at most stations on the line of Railway.		
Mysore and Coorg—		
Mysore	Rain slight.	} Public health generally good; fever rather prevalent.
Coorg	Nil	
<i>General Remarks.</i> —Agricultural prospects fair.		

Presidency or Province and District.		Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Assam—			
Gauhati	(May 13th)	·6	Days hot and more or less clear, occasionally overcast with rain storms; prospects of crops continue favourable; small-pox at Burpetta; choleraic diarrhoea still at Gauhati; cattle disease reported from several mauzas in North Kamrup; public health generally good. Field work progresses.
Sylhet	"	3·94	
Hyderabad Assigned Districts—			
Umraoti	...	...	Land being prepared for ensuing cultivation.
Rajpootana—			
Sirohi	(May 10th)	...	Tanks dry; wells good; health very good; high winds prevailing. Water scarce everywhere; Ranisur tank contains about a month's supply, has been opened to inhabitants for use; health good; a slight storm on night of 2nd.
Marwar	(8th)	...	
Harowtee	"	...	Health and prospects unchanged. Weather cooler; prices continue high; a few cases of cholera.
Bhurtpore	(13th)	...	
Ajnere	"	...	Weather seasonable; health continues good. Water-supply, health, and prospects good; hot winds prevailing.
Meywar	(7th)	...	
Central India—			
Indore	(May 12th)	}	Cholera has almost entirely left Rewah, Indore, and the road southwards, but is heavy on the railway works near Futtehabad; with this exception, general health and prospects are good, and weather pleasant.
Neemuch	"		
Baghelkund	"		
Sutna	"	...	
Nepal—	(May 5th)	2·2	Crops in Terai and hill districts generally good; local damage in valley of Katmandoo to some of the standing corn, owing to a recent hail storm.

A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.



EXTRA SUPPLEMENT TO
The Gazette of India.

No. 21.}

SIMLA, SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1875.

{ Register
No. 75.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE SEASON AND PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS FOR THE WEEK
ENDING THE 20TH MAY 1875.

GENERAL REMARKS.—There has been general but moderate rain during the week in Madras, with heavy falls in Malabar. The rain has also extended to the Southern Mahratta Districts of Bombay; good rain has fallen in Mysore. In Bengal and Assam there has been general rain, in many districts heavy, with severe storms. The ordinary dust storms and showers of the season are reported from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, the Delhi district of the Punjab, and parts of Rajputana. The rain continues to be of great service in Bengal, where rice-sowings are rapidly progressing. In the Punjab the reaping of the *rabi* harvest is almost over; the out-turn has been fair.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Madras—		
Kistna (May 20th)	...	No rain at Masulipatam, Gudivada, Paluad and Naizid; elsewhere a little: <i>kolior</i> summer crop wants water; markets well supplied locally; prices steady; mild small-pox and guinea-worm partial; cattle unhealthy in some localities; dry fodder and water sufficient.
Kurnool (19th)	...	0·16 inch of rain fell in one day; moderate in other taluks; other particulars same as last week.
Tanjore (20th)	0·13 at Negapatam	Rain elsewhere slight and partial; rivers almost dry; supply to tanks none; water over anicuts <i>nil</i> ; no cultivation; standing crops generally good; not thriving in Mannargudi; harvest a few dry grains; yield fair; markets well supplied; prices steady; small-pox and fever in some parts; cholera in Negapatam, Nannilum and Moyeveram; cattle disease in Moyeveram; pasture scanty.
Trichinopoly (19th)	...	Slight rain in parts of district; health good; slight cattle disease in a few villages; pasture scanty.
Malabar (20th)	4·38	Rain sufficient for sowing of first crop; markets well supplied; prices steady; one case of alleged cholera in Eruad taluk; some small-pox; pasture improving.
<i>General Remarks.</i> —General prospects satisfactory.		

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Bombay— (May 20th)		
<i>Sindh.</i>		
Kurrachee (May 19th)	...	Cattle disease disappearing; river rising steadily; cotton crop promising in four talukas.
Shikarpur	...	Weather warm; river 8 feet 8 inches on Bukkur; gauge 8 inches higher than on same date last year; fever prevalent.
Hyderabad	...	Harvesting of rabi completed; water entered most of the canals; preparations for kharif cultivation commenced; small-pox in two talukas; disease among buffaloes in one taluka; health good; weather hot.
Upper Sind Frontier	...	Weather hot; harvesting of rabi nearly completed; water entered through Kusmore Bund and passed into Begari, and is 2 to 3 feet deep near its mouth; it also touched the Bund Khattri hollow; health fair.
<i>Gujarat.</i>		
Ahmedabad	...	High winds; a squall on 18th, with rain 0.22; out of 87 cases of cholera in city 25 proved fatal.
Kaira	0.1	93 deaths from cholera in two talukas; slight cholera also in other talukas.
Surat	...	No change.
Broach	...	Health good; weather sultry.
<i>Khandesh and Nasik.</i>		
Khandesh	...	Cholera in greater part of the Collectorate; at Dhulia, out of 265 cases since 26th April 88 proved fatal; cotton rates unchanged; scarcity of drinking water in Eastern Khandesh.
Nasik	...	Excepting Baglan and Peint, cholera in other ten talukas; weather warm.
<i>Konkan.</i>		
Tanna	...	Health good; scarcity of drinking water continues at some places in one taluka; few deaths from cholera in another taluka.
<i>Deccan.</i>		
Poona	...	No change; 55 deaths from cholera.
Ahmednuggur	...	Cholera in five talukas; cattle disease in two talukas.
Sholapur	...	Cattle disease decreasing; weather warm; health good.
Satara	0.2	Cattle disease in six talukas; measles at Mahabaleshwar.
<i>Southern Mahratta Country.</i>		
Belgaum	1.54	Fever prevalent; cattle disease in two talukas.
Dharwar	0.42	{ In Kod ground being prepared for early crops in most talukas; fever in three talukas.
Kanara	0.63	
Kaladgi	0.53	Sowing for monsoon crop continues; fever, small-pox, and cattle disease prevalent.
<i>Kathiawar and Gaekwar's Territory.</i>		
Rajkot	...	Two cases of cholera at Manikwara, one proved fatal; weather hot; health good.
Wudwan	...	Great heat; high wind; health satisfactory.
Baroda	...	No change.
		<i>General Remarks.</i> —Weather hot; cholera continues in some districts.
Bengal—		
Chittagong (May 18th)	2.13	
Noakhally	2.58	
Tipperah	.59	
Chittagong Hill Tracts,	1.02	
Hill Tipperah	.86	
Backergunge	.49	Sporadic cases of cholera continue.
Fureedpore	2.67	General health good.
Dacca	2.66	
Mymensingh	2.62	
24-Pergunnahs	.37	Cholera decreasing, but cases of fever reported from Barrackpore and Basirhat.
Jessore	.41	
Nuddea	3.27	
Pubna	1.78	
Moorshedabad	1.83	Cholera present in one village in Goas, small-pox in Sijaganj.
Rajshahye	1.76	Cholera has almost disappeared, and the public health is good.
Bogra	.89	
Dinagapore	3.64	
Rungpore	5.12	
Cooch Behar	4.56	Cholera continues to rage in all parts.
Jalpaiguri	1.18	Cholera still prevalent.
Midnapore	1.41	
Howrah	.82	
Hooghly	...	Sickness decreased.
Burdwan	1.52	Fever decreasing.
Bankoora	1.35	
Beerbhoom	.24	
Sonthal Pergunnahs	.55	
Bhagulpore	...	General health good.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Bengal—continued.		
Monghyr (May 18th)	1.39	General health good. Cholera continues in many parts of the district. Cholera still prevalent in parts of the sub-division to the same extent as previously noticed.
Purneah "	1.17	
Chumparun "	1.27	
Sarun "	...	
Mozufferpore "	.94	
Shahabad "	.11	Cholera still prevalent throughout the district.
Patna "	...	Cholera has increased in the Aurungabad sub-division, and south of Gya sub-division.
Gya "	...	
Hazaribagh "	.18	
Lohardagga "	.02	Small-pox still prevalent, and cases of cholera continue to be reported from Palamow.
Maunbhoom "	2.05	
Singbhoom "	1.58	Healthy.
Balasore "	...	Cholera in the north is still on the decline, but it has broken out sporadically elsewhere.
Cuttack "	.55	Cholera disappeared; public health good.
Pooree "	1.59	
General Remarks. —Except in Maldah, there has been rain in every district of Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpore, and in about half the districts of Behar. Storms have been frequent in the districts, doing more or less damage to trees and houses, but the rain has done much good: a break, however, for a week or two in places where the fall has been heavy is now desirable. Standing crops are doing well. The preparations of the land and the sowing of late rice seed are progressing rapidly; spring rice is still being reaped.		
N. W. P.—		
Benares (May 19th)	...	Dust storms, with light showers, on 17th and 18th.
Mirzapur "	...	Thunder storms, with a little rain, on 17th and 18th.
Banda "	...	Storm and slight rain on 16th.
Hamirpur (20th)	...	No change.
Jhansi (18th)	...	Storm without rain; weather cloudy.
Meerut (19th)	...	Rain and heavy storms.
Bareilly "	...	Showery in places.
Punjab—		
Delhi (May 19th)	.3	Cholera leaving the city, but has appeared in village Bakirgarh, 25 miles distant.
Hissar "	on the 17th.	
Umballa "	Nil	Crops gathered; health good.
Jullundur "	...	Crops harvested; health good.
Lahore "	...	Crops gathered; health good.
Rawul Pindi "	...	Crops and health good.
Mooltan "	...	Crops nearly all gathered; health good; rain wanted.
Dera Ismail Khan "	...	Rabi outturn not yet ascertained; health good.
Peshawar "	...	Health good.
		Crops gathered; slight fever.
General Remarks. —The outturn of the rabi crop generally good throughout the province; general health good also, a few cases only of cholera having occurred in the Delhi District.		
Oudh—		
Lucknow (May 19th)	...	A slight drizzle on the 18th instant.
Sitapur "	Nil.	
Fyzabad "	.2	Prices stationary; weather cloudy; wind, dust-storms, and slight showers; cholera decreasing.
Central Provinces—		
Upper Godavari (May 15)	...	Weather cloudy; small-pox prevalent; prices easy.
Sambalpur "	...	Weather clear; kharif ploughing continues; fever decreased.
Bilaspur "	...	Weather cloudy and close; cholera at Mungeli abating; three imported cases at Sade; prices easy.
Chanda (16th)	...	Cattle disease prevalent; prices steady.
Balaghât (17th)	...	Weather clear but warm; small-pox continues; prices steady.
Chhindwara "	...	Weather clear but close; kharif ploughing continues; health good; prices steady.
Bhandara (18th)	...	Weather clear but close; kharif ploughing commenced; small-pox continues; fever decreasing; prices easy.
Nagpur (19th)	...	Weather stormy; kharif ploughing continues; prices rising.
Wardha "	...	Small-pox prevalent.
Nimar "	...	21 cases of cholera, 13 fatal; small-pox continues; prices easy.
Hoshangabad "	}	Weather hot and oppressive; kharif ploughing commenced.
Betul "		
Narsinghpur "	...	Small-pox and fever continues; prices falling.
Jubbulpore "	...	Small-pox continues; one case of cholera at Mûrwara.
Saugor "	...	Weather cloudy; crops gathered; small-pox continues; prices stationary.

Presidency or Province and District.	Rainfall for week preceding.	State of agricultural prospects.
Central Provinces—contd.		
Seoni (May 19th)	...	Kharif ploughing commenced; small-pox decreasing. Weather clear; crops gathered; a few cases of cholera; prices easy. <i>General Remarks.</i> —Cholera cases continue to occur in Nimar and Hoshangabad. There has also been a sharp attack in the town of Mungeli in Bilaspur and isolated cases are reported from Raipur and Jubbulpore.
Raipur (16th)	...	
Mysore and Coorg—		
Mysore (May 20th)	2·65 in Bangalore Cantonment.	Public health generally good; fever greatly prevalent. <i>General Remarks.</i> —Agricultural prospects fair.
Coorg „ ...	1·28	
Assam—		
Gauhati (May 20th)	·75	Weather unsettled; heavy storms, occasionally with heavy rainfalls; prospect of crops favourable; cattle disease still in the interior; choleraic diarrhoea prevalent at Gauhati.
Sylhet „	5·9	Field work progressing; rice market steady; cholera and small-pox continue.
Hyderabad Assigned Districts—		
Umraoti ...	...	Cholera in a village in Buldana District; of 21 persons attacked, 11 died; disease not general.
Rajpootana—		
Sirohi (May 17th)	...	Tanks dry; wells and health good; high wind prevailing.
Marwar „	...	Water scarce everywhere; inhabitants are allowed to draw water from Rainsur tank; health good.
Meywar „	...	Water supply, health and prospects good; hot winds prevailing.
Harowtee „	...	Weather seasonable; health good.
Ajmere (20th)	...	No change.
Bhurtpore „	...	Rain, with strong wind, on the 16th; weather cloudy since; high easterly wind to-day; prices and health unchanged.
Jeypore „	...	No agricultural changes; thunder-storms and rain since Tuesday; health good.
Central India—		
Indore (May 19th)	...	Almost free from cholera, but in the Bheel country it is prevalent and virulent. In other respects throughout Central India health and prospects are favourable.
Neemuch „	...	
Rutlam „	...	
Malwa „	...	
Nepal— (May 12th)	1·5	Wheat and other spring crops in the hill districts somewhat damaged by the rain of the last fortnight.